



## Steven A. Smallegan

January 15, 1958 - December 7, 2025

Steve A. Smallegan, age 67, lived a life of deep faith and love, devoted to Christ and to those around him. On December 7th, 2025, he entered his eternal home.

Watch the Celebration of Life: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rB8sD3aO5oc>

He was born to Philip (deceased) and Dorothy Smallegan and raised in Forest Grove, Michigan with his brother David (Shannon) Smallegan. Steve graduated from Hudsonville High School in 1976 and Hope College in 1980. Answering God's call, he pursued seminary studies at Western Theological Seminary (Holland, MI) and Saint Andrews University (Scotland) before completing his Master of Divinity at Fuller Seminary (Pasadena, CA) in 1983. That same year, he was ordained and began a ministry that spanned more than four decades. Along the way, he also earned his Doctorate of Ministry from Asbury Seminary (Wilmore, KY).

Steve served faithfully in the Reformed Church in America, beginning as Assistant Chaplain at Hope College in Holland, MI (1983-1984). He then pastored Nooksack Valley Reformed Church in Nooksack, WA (1985-1990), and Westwood Reformed Church in Muskegon, MI (1990-1998). He served in a denominational position as the Zeeland Classis Minister (1998-2014). After

interim ministry at First Reformed Church in Oostburg, WI (2015-2016), Steve concluded his pastoral calling at Hope Church in South Haven, MI (2016-2024).

His heart for ministry extended beyond the pulpit-as a young man, he spent three summers serving on the Camp Geneva staff and later returned for 35 years as a Chaplain. He also mentored children through Kids Hope USA for 30 years. Wherever God placed him, Steve poured into people and communities with humility and joy.

Steve celebrated nearly 42 years of marriage with his loving wife, Brenda (Bakker). Together they raised four daughters: Laura (Nate) Hinkle, Hannah (Jon) Haeffele, Lydia (Andrew) Loveland, and Maria (Owen) Brookhouse. He was a proud papa to Ezra, Jeremiah, Noah, Theodore, Naomi, and Ellis -each one a source of immeasurable joy.

Outside of ministry, Steve loved reading, traveling, and playing golf and tennis. He was a lifelong sports enthusiast, but his greatest passion was sharing life and faith with those around him.

Steve faced a courageous two-year battle with cancer, walking that journey with grace, strength, and unwavering trust in God. He will be deeply missed, but we rejoice in knowing that he was welcomed home and heard the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Visitation will be held Noon-2:00 pm and 5:00pm-8:00pm on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at Yntema Funeral Home 251 S. State St. Zeeland, MI 49464.

A celebration of Steve's life will be at Noon on Saturday, December 13, 2025,

at Hope Reformed Church, 1365 Monroe Blvd, South Haven, MI 49090.

Memorial gifts may be made to Camp Geneva, a ministry close to his heart at [www.campgeneva.org/give/](http://www.campgeneva.org/give/) or by mail to 3995 Lakeshore Dr. N. Holland, MI 49424.

Burial to take place in Forest Grove Cemetery.

[www.yntemafh.com](http://www.yntemafh.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 11. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Yntema Funeral Home  
251 South State Street  
Zeeland, MI 49464

## Visitation

DEC 11. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Yntema Funeral Home  
251 South State Street  
Zeeland, MI 49464

## Celebration of Life

DEC 13. 12:00 PM (ET)

Hope Church  
1365 Monroe Blvd.  
South Haven, MI 49090

# Tribute Wall



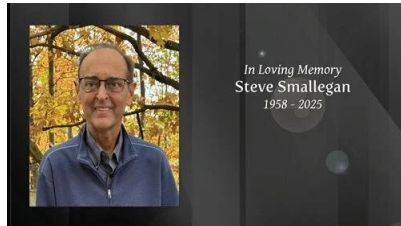
“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Watch Celebration of Life in memory of Steven A. Smallegan*

*In Loving Memory*  
**Steve Smallegan**  
1958 - 2025

Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - December 11, 2025 at 08:59 AM



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Steven A. Smallegan*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - December 11, 2025 at 08:39 AM

CK

“ *I got to know Mr. Smallegan over the course of a couple of years while he was battling with illness. I thoroughly enjoyed the time we spent together, always enjoyed conversations about sports (tennis, golf, basketball, football) and hearing about his wonderful family. My condolences to you Brenda, and the rest of your family as you celebrate a great life that I'm glad I was able to be a small part of. Warm regards and rest in peace.*

*Chris Kapp*

Chris Kapp - January 19 at 11:08 AM

JB

“ Sorry to just now hear of Steve's passing. Steve was a cherished prayer partner and mobilizer with me in the Zeeland Classis. I believe in the mystery of God's mercy, Steve may be witnessed the tilting of the golden bowls of incense which he helped fill with his leadership in prayer (Revelation 5:8).

*My heart goes out to you Benda, as I too lost Jeannette to cancer three years ago. May the God of all comfort, comfort your heart...*

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**Jonathan Brownson** - December 30, 2025 at 09:34 PM

KH

“ So Sorry Brenda and the girls for the loss of Steve. Always will have Great memories at Westwood and being part of the 3 girl club. Will pray for your family during this time!!

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**kevin Holman** - December 16, 2025 at 02:04 PM

DD

“ I was on consistory when Pastor Steve was our interim at First Reformed Church in Oostburg. What a pleasure to work with him. A Godly, intelligent, caring man. We, as a congregation, were fortunate to have him with us during that time. Our deepest sympathy to the family. Well done, good and faithful servant.

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**David Dykstra** - December 13, 2025 at 09:57 AM

MD

“ I learned so much from Pastor Steve while he worked at Westwood. I remember that he said his goal was to study an hour for every minute that he preached. At that time, I was beginning to teach the middle school Sunday School class, and needed more depth of understanding than the curriculum supplied.

One Wednesday night, Steve came to our table with a Christian Bible Distributors magazine. He pointed out an Expositor's Bible Commentary CD that was on sale, and suggested to my husband that he buy it for me! This was the beginning of a library supporting 29 years of study for Sunday School teaching.

Steve is a whole hearted servant of God whose difficult work is now completed. He has gone ahead into the presence of God and those who love and miss Steve today will someday join him at the throne of God.

May God comfort you, Brenda, Laura, Hannah, Lydia and Maria.  
Love, Marilee and Wayne Dolislager

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Marilee Dolislager - December 12, 2025 at 10:30 PM



*The foundation of my faith journey has deep roots because I grew up learning from Pastor Steve at Westwood. His authenticity and integrity are rare and I didn't know what it was at the time... I just knew I felt seen and heard and valued even as a kid.*

*When I was 11 or 12 years old, Pastor Steve announced that he had received and was considering a call to another church. I remember writing him a letter willing him to stay and expressing my desire to babysit for him and Brenda (Lydia was brand new and adorable). When he announced they were staying and I was asked to babysit soon after I felt very included in that decision :)*

*I attended Camp Geneva as a camper while Steve was our pastor and then went on to spend 3 summers on staff, was a program intern, and came back to volunteer several times. I so love Geneva and the spiritual magic of camp... and I'm thankful Steve always encouraged all things Geneva!*

*Pastor Steve returned to Westwood as pulpit supply years later and preached about the sacred assembly calling he received (that Scott touched on during the service). During that sermon I heard a still small voice declare that I was meant to be part of the faith revival Steve spoke of... I then decided to pursue a youth ministry degree at Hope College and spent 10 years working in youth ministry. My ministry was built on authentic connection, community, and building student leaders. Listening to the service I see the echoes of Pastor Steve's genuine connection and compassion for individuals woven into that work.*

*Now as a therapist I value authentic connection tremendously as it is the foundation with every client I see.*

*During the service, it was mentioned that Pastor Steve thought of it as the last sermon he gets to preach... but I would add that so many of the sermons he preached and the authentic love for others he embodied continue to echo out through all of us who were changed for the better by knowing him. I am forever grateful that Pastor Steve was a part of my life.*

*Sending my love to Brenda, Laura, Hannah, Lydia, and Maria. May God grant you His peace and hold you close.*

*Love & hugs,  
Megan Dolislager*

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**Megan Lynn** - December 14, 2025 at 11:14 AM

CN

“ I am overcome with grief at the loss of this dear friend. I cannot begin to count the memories of meals shared together, the years he and Brenda enfolded our youngest son Adam into their family while I worked in ministry and also when Dave and I would get away to Peaceful Pines. But most of all, Steve was a dear friend and mentor, helping me navigate some very difficult times. I will never forget his influence on my life, and will be eternally grateful. I'm a little upset with him because I had asked him to officiate my funeral when that time came! But I know he is in God's presence and I wouldn't wish him back to the pain of this world. I hope he's already given Ben a huge hug, the kind of bear hug you could count on to receive from Steve. My deepest sympathies to Steve's family and loved ones. This makes me even more "homesick for heaven".

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**Cindy Nyhoff** - December 11, 2025 at 12:09 PM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Steven A. Smallegan.



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December 11, 2025 at 07:48 AM

NM

“ Nydia M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven A. Smallegan.

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**Nydia M.** - December 11, 2025 at 06:43 AM

CH

“ *Carla Kozlowics & Norma Haro purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Steven A. Smallegan.*



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**Carla Kozlowics & Norma Haro** - December 10, 2025 at 04:52 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Steven A. Smallegan.*



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December 10, 2025 at 04:00 PM

AT

“ *Arc'teryx Southport Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven A. Smallegan.*

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**Arc'teryx Southport Team** - December 10, 2025 at 04:00 PM

JT

“ *Julia, Ann & Torie purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Steven A. Smallegan.*



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**Julia, Ann & Torie** - December 10, 2025 at 03:24 PM

JH

“ John and Pat Hinkle purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Steven A. Smallegan.



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**John and Pat Hinkle** - December 10, 2025 at 01:49 PM

JH

“ John and Pat Hinkle planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven A. Smallegan.

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**John and Pat Hinkle** - December 10, 2025 at 01:49 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Steven A. Smallegan.



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December 10, 2025 at 11:00 AM

BM

“ Ben and Nancy Manthei planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven A. Smallegan.

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**Ben and Nancy Manthei** - December 10, 2025 at 11:00 AM

RB

“ Our deepest condolences to Brenda, the kids, grandchildren, Steve's mom, family and friends. We first met Steve and Brenda in South Africa and visited with them again in South Haven and it was clear that he lived very close to his Saviour.



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**Rina Badenhorst** - December 10, 2025 at 06:53 AM

JV

“ Sending my Sympathies to your family. Dorothy, I'm not sure if you remember me, (Julie Daining. Cal's wife) one of your neighbors in the late 1960's.. so sorry for the loss of your son. I lost my youngest son to cancer in 2023.. I know the heartache you are feeling.. Praying for you and your family... Julie (Daining) VanKampen

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**Julie VanKampen** - December 10, 2025 at 06:13 AM

NP

“ Steve was always a chaplain highlight during my summers at Camp Geneva. Through unhurried conversations, he taught me to hold my theology with humility and to ask hard questions without fear. I can be passionate... but he taught me how to be wiser, calmer, and kinder. His presence invited curiosity, courage, and growth. I'm grateful for his voice in my life.

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**Nicole Poolman** - December 09, 2025 at 05:42 PM

KD

“ My deepest sympathy Brenda, Girls and Family. I followed Steves journey the past 2 years just as he walked this with our family back in 1998. His constant love, prayers and concern were so special and my family never has forgotten all his kindness. Gods Blessings. Kay DeVries./ Muskegon...

Kay DeVries - December 09, 2025 at 05:38 PM

LD

“ Steve was such an encouragement to all. Every time our paths crossed, whether at Geneva or in pastoral ministry, he brought light and life in the name of Jesus!

Laura Dilley - December 09, 2025 at 04:49 PM



“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Steven A. Smallegan.



December 09, 2025 at 03:45 PM

CS

“ Chris S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven A. Smallegan.

Chris S. - December 09, 2025 at 03:45 PM

CS

“ I grew up with Steve in Forest Grove church and have crossed paths with him in several ministry settings. I'm sorry to read of his cancer struggle and now his death. May God comfort his wife and family as they celebrate a life well lived and mourn his death.

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**Carla Sterk** - December 09, 2025 at 02:00 PM

MD

“ Steve was the first pastor I truly remember having as a kid. He played a big part at Westwood during my early years. He was ever kind and caring. So sad to hear about his passing. Peace and comfort to the family.

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**Michael Danhof** - December 09, 2025 at 01:38 PM

JB

“ John & Mary Sue Beuker purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Steven A. Smallegan.



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**John & Mary Sue Beuker** - December 09, 2025 at 12:48 PM

JB

“ John & Mary Sue Beuker planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven A. Smallegan.

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**John & Mary Sue Beuker** - December 09, 2025 at 12:48 PM

TF

“ *The DeVree Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Steven A. Smallegan.*



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**The DeVree Family** - December 09, 2025 at 11:32 AM

DD

“ *We met Steve and Brenda at Hope Reformed Church in South Haven, MI but quickly saw Steve’s energy and enthusiasm for the Lord. His sermons and conversations were heartfelt and consistently about pointing the way to Jesus. He led by example in walking with our Lord but was always ready with a laugh, a fun story or adventure to share. He and Don loved sharing golf and baseball stories. Our lives are richer for knowing Steve .... he will be missed by us on earth as he treasures his time in Heaven.*

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**Don and Mary Dezelsky** - December 09, 2025 at 10:35 AM

SK

“ *Rich and I got to know Steve at Camp Geneva. He was a great counselor, full of life, fun, enthusiasm, and love for the Lord. He always had good insights at Rich’s morning staff devotions. He met Brenda at Geneva and they became one of those Geneva couples. They kept us up to date on all their moves and family. It was a joy to know Steve. Rich who passed away a year ago is rejoicing with him in heaven.*

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**Susan Kuiper** - December 09, 2025 at 10:16 AM

BB

*Steve and Brenda were a true camp Geneva romance. I was a counselor with both of them when they met. Steve was kind and friendly and loved God. So sorry Brenda for your loss. My husband died of cancer six years ago this week and we both have the assurance we will see them again in heaven. May you feel the outpouring of love during this difficult time.*

brooke Billingsley - December 09, 2025 at 04:55 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Steven A. Smallegan.



December 09, 2025 at 09:32 AM

EK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ellen Kinzer - December 09, 2025 at 09:06 AM

EK

*Steve will be greatly missed. Love from Ellen and Mike Kinzer*

Ellen Kinzer - December 09, 2025 at 09:08 AM

DS

“ Chaplain Steve was a steadfast and kind man at Camp Geneva. I remember talking to him as a counselor there one summer - he was so encouraging and surreal. I remember him speaking when I was a CIT even - the man loved Christ and I am grateful for him.

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**David Michael Smeenge** - December 08, 2025 at 10:51 PM

KH

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Steven back at Michigan State University when I had the pleasure of meeting Brenda as a college roommate. We had shared many memories, including celebrating the children's births and our parenting mild-stones. Steven always provided kindness and the listening ear that made you want to share. May you rest in peace as you have joined your most loving Savior.  
Fondly-Kathy

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**kathy herman** - December 08, 2025 at 08:51 PM

KM

“ I knew Steve through a group of dear friends that includes his wife Brenda. Steve and I shared a love of baseball. Steve had a level of joy that was palpable, he was a compassionate man. He will be so missed by his family of women. I loved him because of the way he embraced his life, his church family and his loving wife Brenda. I mourn this loss for the world because Steve made our place and time so much better. He embraced his life with a vigor because of his love of God and family. I am rejoicing for the life Steve lived.

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**Kari Miller** - December 08, 2025 at 07:27 PM

MM

“ I worked with Steve while serving on several Zeeland Classis committees. He was quick to offer praise and an encouraging word. I pray for the heavenly repose of his soul.

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**Mary Merrill** - December 08, 2025 at 06:46 PM

TF

“ Steven's life and mine intersected frequently but inconsistently. We first met in Sunday School at Forest Grove Reformed Church, when I would come there in the summer to stay with my aunt and uncle on their farm. Later we would meet when I was working at a men's store in Zeeland and as a Music Director at a couple of Holland area churches. And although I haven't seen him again for years, I kept "in touch" through mutual friends. In everything he did, Steve kept his eye on pointing people to Jesus. I am sorry to hear of his passing. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

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**Thomas Folkert** - December 08, 2025 at 06:06 PM