

PASTOR'S e-NEWSLETTER

March 2023 Vol. 13 No. 3

Everglades Community Church, 101 S. Copeland Avenue

P.O. Box 177, Everglades City, FL 34139

Telephone (239) 784-7318 Text (615) 889-8560

Website: evergladescommunity.church

Our 97th Year

"The friendly little church on the Circle in Everglades City"



1926-2023



Pastor Bob & Millie

Photo by Helen Bryan

The Seafood Festival was different this year. There were no rides on the Midway because of a last minute hitch with the rides and there was a \$5 admission charge for the first time. It was well attended and everyone seemed to have a good time. We had Handicap Parking on our campus and the cookie booth sold giant chocolate chip and sugar cookies.

AS I SEE IT . . . Sunday, February 26th was a special day at ECC. It was Pastor Appreciation Day, and boy, do Millie and I feel loved! Your generous monetary gift is appreciated. And enough can't be said for the beautiful luncheon after church, complete with fried chicken and a wonderful chocolate cake with strawberry filling and yummy white icing! It was wonderful celebrating the last 18 years of my ministry as your Pastor and looking forward to beginning my 19th year on March 6th. What a wonderful day it will be next year as we celebrate my 20th year as Pastor of this wonderful church on the circle in Everglades City, Florida. Millie and I feel so blessed to be a part of your lives in this family of God. Our hearts are with you, always, wherever you are as you travel this great country of ours. May God bless this church, and God bless America. And we are still having to be aware that we are not back in attendance to the point where we were before COVID hit the U.S. May 15, 2020, and Hurricane Ian hit our area September 28, 2022. Between our church being shut for a few months, having to wear masks, and then losing homes and families moving away, it has been a challenge. I pray you will invite your friends and neighbors to church so we can fill our church and have seats in the aisles, once again!

The Reverend Dr. Bob N. Wallace

SEAFOOD FESTIVAL FEBRUARY 17, 18, 19

Photos by Kathy Brock

Handicap Parking on our Church Campus



Cookie Booth in front of our church



Stage Shows at City Hall across from our church



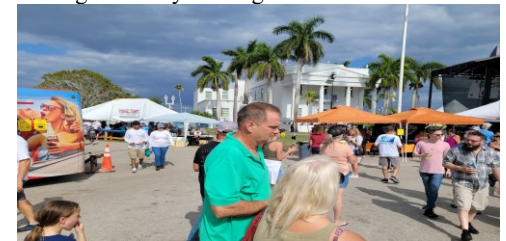
Plenty of good food across from our church



Lots of folks visiting our town



Everglades City Hall right in the center of it all



VISIT OUR WEBSITE to view and read Pastor's sermons weekly. Go to - evergladescommunity.church

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are continuing our study of Ezekiel. Understanding that the prophet was not only speaking to his time, his prophecies can very well be speaking of the time in which we are living. The Pastor is attempting to make clear to those attending that the Old Testament Prophet is relevant to our times. Come at 10 AM.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2 - Richard Kearney
3 - Barbara Kearney
4 - Dee Davis
11-Ray Galbraith
11-Sally Heflebower
12-Kent Johnson
15-Keith Davis
21-John Trotsky



Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan, and preparing to begin his ministry. Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection.



The new freezer used by Food Distribution to replace one lost during Hurricane IAN. \$2000 was generously provided by our local Reach Out Program and the Ladies Auxiliary of ECC.

Free Income Tax Assistance for Qualifying Taxpayers

The IRS's VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program has operated for over 50 years. Sites offer free help to people who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns, including:

- People who generally make \$58,000 or less
- Persons with disabilities
- Limited English-speaking taxpayers

You can read more about it here: <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-qualifying-taxpayers>

Collier County Residents:

The United Way of Collier County and the Keys opened their VITA site at the main office located at 9015 Strada Stell Court, Suite 204, Naples, FL 34109. They are operating by appointments only from 9AM-2PM every Wednesday. To make an appointment please call (305)563-1470 or go to: <https://book-now.appointment-plus.com/9evjpb3g/>

Happiness is a choice, you cannot choose what happens, but you can choose your reaction to it and be Happy.

WWW.LIVELIFEHAPPY.COM

Insurance Deductible Assistance Program Application Deadline Extended to March 31, 2023

If you are a homeowner whose primary residence is in Collier County, Florida and it sustained damage from Hurricane Ian, Collier County is helping qualified applicants with their insurance deductible. The applicant must meet income limits up to 120% area median income (AMI). Residential value of the primary residence, according to the Collier County Appraiser, cannot exceed \$458,634.60. The maximum award for a household is \$20,000. A second home and/or rental property will not meet the program requirements. Applications are currently open. Applications are to be completed online at:

<https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/HURRICANE-IAN-COLLIERCOUNTYFL/>

The portal will close on Friday, March 31, at 5 p.m.

The county received \$334,700 from the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Disaster Assistance program to distribute in the community. Application will be processed in the order they are received. **Only complete application and fully qualified applicants will be processed.**

Maximum Income Limits per household size:

SIZE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Income 120%	\$79,320	\$90,000	\$101,880	\$113,180	\$122,280	\$131,280	\$140,400	\$149,400

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalms 139:23-24