



**The Month of May Brings  
Special Worship Celebrations**

**Join Ortega Church in Worship at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday in May.**

**Sunday, May 5 – Missions Report: Iglesia Metodista las Placetas, Cuba**

Our Mission Team shares their wonderful story of our recent journey to establish our new Sister Church Relationship in Cuba.



**Sunday, May 12 – Mother’s Day Reflection: God-Honored Women**

A great day to celebrate Mom and the women of the church as we explore the roles of God-honored women of the Bible.

**Sunday, May 19 – Pentecost Sunday and Ortega Playschool Appreciation**

It’s the Birthday of Christ’s Church and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are ours to celebrate and share! We will also share a special recognition with our Ortega Playschool outreach ministry.

*There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. – I Corinthians 12:4-7*

**Sunday, May 26 – Memorial Day Reflection**

Special Music and Message as we remember: *There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. – John 15:13*

**We’ll See You Sunday for Worship at Ortega Church!**

**Ortega Playschool Transitions Leadership with Great Appreciation**



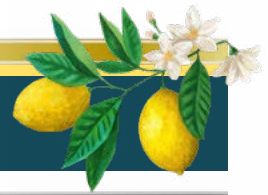
Gayle Runion

Since 1984, the Ortega Playschool (OPS) has served as an outreach ministry to our community and Gayle Runion was already serving as a volunteer with the ministry. For the past twenty-two years Gayle has served as Director of the Ortega Playschool. Kelly Stone has served as an OPS teacher and Assistant Director for the past 17 years. Both Gayle and Kelly will be retiring from their faithful service at the end of this school year. Join Ortega Church as we celebrate both Gayle and Kelly, as well as our entire OPS Faculty on Sunday, May 19 during Worship.



Kelly Stone

Please also see Page 7 to be introduced to our new OPS Co-Directors “Miss Casey” Sharp and “Miss Abby” Steedley.



## Our Staff:

### Rev. Art McClellan

Pastor  
ArtMcClellan@ortegachurch.org

### Liz Holmes

Administrative/Financial  
Coordinator  
Liz@ortegachurch.org

### Melissa Millican

Director of Recreational Ministry  
& Ortega Youth  
Melissa@ortegachurch.org

### Shannon Jennings

Director of Family Ministry  
Shannon@ortegachurch.org

### Nora Cash-Davie

Director of Communications  
Nora@ortegachurch.org

### Scott Coleman

Director of Contemporary Music  
Scott@ortegachurch.org

### Charlie Mann

Organist/Pianist  
Charlie@ortegachurch.org

### Gayle Runion

Director Ortega Playschool  
ortegaplayschool@gmail.com

### Kelly Stone

Assistant Director  
Ortega Playschool  
ortegaplayschool@gmail.com

### Jonathan Jennings

Audio Visual  
jonj@ortegachurch.org

### Wyatt Cleland

Maintenance Coordinator

### Alison Shriner

Hospitality/Housekeeping



## Living Every Day Like It's Easter Day

In the month of April, we continued our celebration of Easter Sunday as we explored the eye-witness accounts of those who encountered and were empowered by the presence of the risen Christ. John's Gospel shares two important encounters: In chapter 20, Thomas, who is best known for his doubting, actually shares one of the strongest statements of faith found in our Bible, "My Lord and my God." Also in chapter 20, you and I receive a blessing when Jesus says to Thomas, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe even though they have not seen."

In John chapter 21, our witnessed account comes as Peter and several of the disciples are still trying to process the events of the last few days. Here's the problem: These disciples are looking in the wrong place – they are looking in the tomb for a dead Jesus. And now the body is missing! They too soon discover the presence of the risen Christ as Jesus meets them at their point of need. If we are looking for Jesus, every day can be Easter Day.

Each of our four Gospel stories closes with an epilogue where the purpose of the story is restated in the conclusion. In each epilogue, Jesus calls his disciples to be witnesses and to live out their love for Jesus, now the risen Christ.

The Gospel of John could have ended in Chapter 20 with Jesus' resurrection from the dead! It could have ended with Thomas' acclamation: "My Lord and my God!" Or, with the blessing you and I receive, "Blessed are those who believe without seeing."

But after the first Easter Sunday resurrection encounters with Christ, none of the gospels conclude with the resurrection. They all could have ended with Jesus rising from the grave, but they don't end there because Easter isn't over. They end with the risen Christ sending his disciples to take the message of God's love and grace and forgiveness into the world!

Being a disciple of Jesus Christ is something different than only loving Jesus – it is our becoming more like Christ; it is our being Christ for the world through our words and our actions that speak more powerfully than our words. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to get in the boat *with* Jesus and then we are called to get out of the boat *for* Jesus.

Today, Jesus Christ is calling you and me to find new words and new ways to take God's unchanging message and to share it with a world that needs to hear and understand God's grace and love and forgiveness for themselves.



# FINANCES



## Year-End Report March 31, 2024 Revenue and Expenses

**Actual  
Revenue:  
\$266,940**

Thank you for your financial support of the ministries of Ortega Church!

**Actual  
Expenses:  
\$202,123**

## The Ortega Church Endowment Fund

Established in 2007, the Endowment Fund was created with the intention of providing members and friends of the Church with the opportunity to make charitable gifts and bequests, providing Ortega Church with a perpetual source of financial support. The income earned on these investments will directly benefit the Church's programs and ministries that are not typically funded through the annual operating budget.



Call or email the Church Office with questions or concerns: 389-5556 x118 or [financeoffice@ortegachurch.org](mailto:financeoffice@ortegachurch.org).

# ORTEGA LIFE CENTER



Ortega Sports



Melissa Millican  
Director of Recreational  
Ministry & Ortega Youth  
[melissa@ortegachurch.org](mailto:melissa@ortegachurch.org)

## JOIN A FITNESS CLASS

MWF	Morning Fit 7:00am
MWF	Circuit Fitness 8:00am
MW	Circuit Fitness (Silver) 9:00am
TU/SAT	Yoga 6:00pm/9:00am
MWF	Chair Yoga 9:00am
MWF	Gentle Restore Yoga 6:00pm

**ORTEGASPORTS.COM**

**BASKETBALL  
CAMP**

**RISING 1-3RD  
JUNE 17-20TH**

**VOLLEYBALL  
CAMPS**

**June 24-27th  
3rd-5th & 6th-8th**

**WIFFLE  
BALL  
LEAGUE**

**COMING SUMMER 2024!  
WWW.ORTEGASPORTS.COM**

**JOIN US FOR  
SUMMER  
LEAGUES**

# ADULT MINISTRIES

Connect | Grow | Serve



[www.rightnowmedia.org](http://www.rightnowmedia.org)



## Altar Flowers

The Altar Flower Calendar is in the Narthex. Reserve your Special Sunday.

The Cost is \$90.

Check out our Ortega Church Channel under the library section of Rightnow Media.

Suggested for May



There you can explore the studies we hope you will enjoy!

## Current Weekly Class Offerings:

**Open Door Class** (Room 4 - Education Building)  
Sundays at 9:30am

**Renovate Class** (Parlor) Sundays at 9:30am

**Bible Believers** (Room 7 - Education Building)  
Sundays at 9:30am

**Rediscovery Class** (Parlor) Wednesdays at 6:00pm

**Men's Bible Study** (Room 4) Wednesdays at 7:00pm,  
(Parlor) Thursday mornings at 6:45am

**Womens Bible Study** (Parlor) Mondays at 1:00pm,  
(Parlor) Tuesdays at 1:00pm.

Moms play many roles. They have to be experts in just about everything. It's a lot of pressure. This six-week adventure that will cover the basic principles of motherhood. **Dive in and Learn:**

**Purpose** - What is a mom's purpose in life.

**Boundaries** - How to set boundaries with your children, family, and friends.

**Time Management** - Balance the tug and pull of your time.

**Become a student of your child** - How to connect with each of your individual children on an intimate level.

**Discipline** - Learn why discipline is so important in the life of a child and regain control of your home.

**Contentment** - How to find contentment even when you don't love the circumstances of your life.

## Life Groups



If you're interested in joining a Life Group contact the church office at 389-5556.

### Monday Evening Life Group

This group will resume in September.  
Led by Tom and Gretchen Lynch.

### Tuesday Evening Life Group

Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:00pm (May 7 & 21).  
Led by Lee and Susan Norville, meeting in their home.

### Parents on the Run Life Group

Meets the first Sunday of every month; May 5 in the home of Timothy and Lydia Snyder.

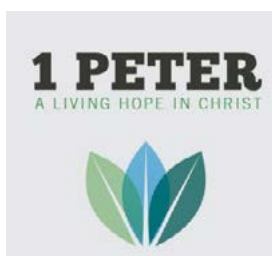
### Women's Prayer Group Thursdays at 10:30 AM

May 9 & 23; Meets every other Thursday at 10:30am in the Education Building.

**Don't have a login?**  
Contact the church office for this free service and we will help you sign up.

### Women's Bible Study - Mondays

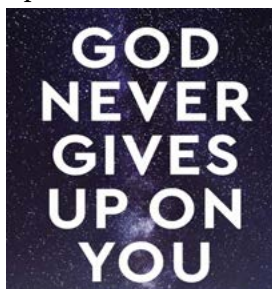
1pm in the Parlor, April 8 - June 3.



9-session study by Jen Wilkin. We will study the book of 1 Peter to look beyond our current circumstances to a future inheritance through Christ. Discover what it means to experience the Living Hope that we have in Christ.

### Women's Bible Study - Tuesdays

1pm in the Parlor; May 7 - May 28.



By Max Lucado - *What Jacob's Story Teaches Us About Grace, Mercy, and God's Relentless Love:* God never turned his back on Jacob. And he won't turn his back on you. If you are ready to start counting on God's grace and believe he never gives up on you, this study is for you!

# ADULT MINISTRIES



Prayers  
& Praises

## How Can We Pray For You?

We invite you to share prayer requests by calling the church office, 389-5556 x118, sending an email to [prayer@ortegachurch.org](mailto:prayer@ortegachurch.org), or completing the prayer request form at [www.ortegachurch.org](http://www.ortegachurch.org).

Would you like to join  
our prayer ministry team?  
Contact [prayer@ortegachurch.org](mailto:prayer@ortegachurch.org)

## Ortega Methodist Women

The Ortega Methodist Women's Board will meet Tuesday, May 7 at 10:00am in the Parlor.

The Ruth - Elizabeth Circle will meet Monday, May 13 at 11:00am in the Parlor.

The Lydia Circle will on Tuesday, May 14 at 10:00am. We will be taking a tour of St. Mary's Episcopal Church at 1924 North Laura St. Margie Fox is our hostess. We will car pool from the church leaving promptly at 9:30am.

## Unit and Circle Meetings Will Resume in September.

(We will not be meeting in June, July and August).



# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

SERVE

## Wish You Were Here!



JOIN ORTEGA CHURCH IN WORSHIP SUNDAY, MAY 5 TO EXPERIENCE OUR RECENT MISSION TO CUBA VISITING OUR NEW SISTER CHURCH IGLESIA METODISTA LAS PLACETAS. MISSION TEAM MEMBERS WILL SHARE TESTIMONIALS, PICTURES, STORIES, MUSIC AND MORE!

Family Promise

MAY 19-25



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

## HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:

Meals are needed - to be delivered by 4:30pm. They can be homemade or picked up from Chick-fil-a or BBQ if you have having a busy week. The meals are dropped at the Family Promise site: 432 University Blvd. N. If drop off is a problem we can pick up the meal and deliver for you.

### Sign up to Volunteer Online:

[www.tinyurl.com/FamPromVolunteerMay2024](http://www.tinyurl.com/FamPromVolunteerMay2024)

### or Contact Gretchen Lynch:

[t-lynch@comcast.net](mailto:t-lynch@comcast.net), (904) 333-0849



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Shannon Jennings  
Director of  
Family Ministry  
[Shannon@ortegachurch.org](mailto:Shannon@ortegachurch.org)

## NURSERY

6 weeks - 4 years (Prek3)  
10:15 - 11:45; Room 19

## KID'S CHURCH

10:30: Worship in Sanctuary with Family  
10:45: Dismissal to Kid's Church  
in the Education Building

<b>PREK 4 - 1ST</b> Room 2	<b>2ND-4TH</b> Room 3	<b>5TH-6TH</b> Crew56 2nd Floor
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11:45: Pick up in Education Building



**Meets Every Sunday,  
5:30pm-7pm.**

We will not be meeting 5/12.  
(5th & 6th Grade - Fellowship Hall)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

**JOIN THE  
FUN!**



We are looking for  
**Sunday School Teachers**  
to join our team of volunteers!

If you would be interested in  
sharing your gifts by teaching  
once a month, contact:

[Shannon@ortegachurch.org](mailto:Shannon@ortegachurch.org)

## ORTEGA KID'S CHOIR

CHOIR WILL BE SINGING  
ON MOTHER'S DAY,  
MAY 12, 2024

We will resume  
weekly practice  
in the Fall.

## A NEW WEEKEND VBS! COMING JUNE 14-16



REGISTER

**Friday:**  
5PM - 8PM  
(Dinner Included)

**Saturday:**  
12:30PM - 3PM

**Sunday:**  
VBS Celebration  
for the Entire Family!  
10:30AM  
(In Sanctuary  
Followed by Lunch)

Registration for Church Members and Volunteers has begun!



# YOUTH MINISTRY



Melissa Millican  
Director of  
Recreational  
Ministry &  
Ortega Youth  
[melissa@ortegachurch.org](mailto:melissa@ortegachurch.org)



Ignite Youth



[ortegayouth](https://www.instagram.com/ortegayouth)

## SUNDAY MORNINGS:



**DROP OFF:** 10:00am

Come hang out and enjoy  
breakfast (donuts, bagels, etc)  
in the Youth Room at 10am!  
No Youth May 12- Mother's Day

## WEDNESDAY NIGHTS:



**DROP OFF:** 6:00pm  
**PICK UP:** 7:00pm

Join us for a game/activity and a short  
devotional. We will "mix" it up every  
week with activities like ice cream,  
dodge ball, basketball, etc. (Youth Room)

Christian  
ILLUSIONIST  
COMING MAY 19  
5:30PM



## SUNDAY EVENINGS:



**DROP OFF:** 5:30pm  
**PICK UP:** 7:00pm

This is classic Youth Group  
Night in the Youth Room.  
Snacks, Fun Games,  
Worship and a Message.

JOIN A  
WIFFLEBALL  
TEAM FOR  
THE SUMMER!



SIGN UP AT  
[WWW.ORTEGASPORTS.COM](http://WWW.ORTEGASPORTS.COM)



# ORTEGA PLAYSCHOOL



Casey Sharp

Ortega Church Leadership is pleased to announce that Casey Sharp and Abby Steedley will serve as Co-Directors of the Ortega Playschool for the 2024-2025 academic school year. Miss Casey has served with our OPS faculty for 13 years and currently serves as a VPK teacher. Casey will serve as Director of Education. Miss Abby has been in training this year to assume the position of Director of Finance and Communication. Congratulations!



Abby Steedley

**MAY 2024**



4807 Roosevelt Blvd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32210

Church Office: 904-389-5556  
Playschool: 904-387-0749

Email: [communications@ortegachurch.org](mailto:communications@ortegachurch.org)  
[www.ortegachurch.org](http://www.ortegachurch.org)

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## CELEBRATING EASTER JOY AT ORTEGA CHURCH



Easter Sunday was celebrated with many joyful expressions: From the glorious Sunrise Service, to the creation of our lovely Courtyard Cross, to our wonderful Easter Worship, and the delightful music of our Ortega Children's Choir!



Sunrise Service



Courtyard Cross



Easter Sunday Worship



Ortega Children's Choir