



**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



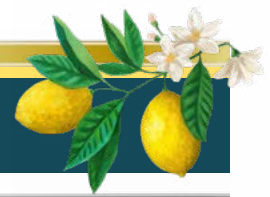
Gayle Runion

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.

ORTEGA LIFE CENTER



Ortega Sports



Melissa Millican
Director of Recreational
Ministry & Ortega Youth
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

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**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



Altar Flowers

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

The Cost is \$90.

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.

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.

www.rightnowmedia.org

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!

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.

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.

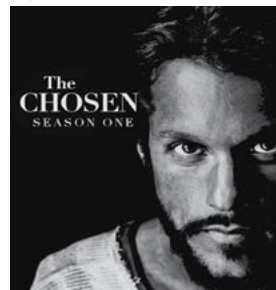
1 PETER
A LIVING HOPE IN CHRIST



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.

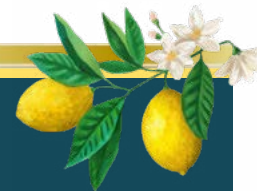
Women's Bible Study - Tuesdays

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



9 Episodes, Season 2: We are watching The Chosen together. In this second season, see Jesus through the eyes of those who met Him. The revolution grows, but not without resistance. The story of Jesus and His apostles continues. No book needed.

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, or completing the prayer request form at www.ortegachurch.org.

Would you like to join
our prayer ministry team?
Contact 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.



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 are 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

or Contact Gretchen Lynch:

t-lynch@comcast.net, (904) 333-0849



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Shannon Jennings
Director of
Family Ministry
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

PREK 4 - 1ST Room 2	2ND-4TH Room 3	5TH-6TH 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

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



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



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

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Playschool: 904-387-0749

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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