



**ORTEGA**  
CHURCH

AUGUST 2024  
**THE SPIRE**

## Transitions of Life

Transitions, or change, is truly the one constant in life. The thought first attributed to ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus 500 years before Christ is as true today as then, and for all time in between. Change is inevitable and whether we thrive on change or try to avoid it at all costs, change can be either daunting or filled with opportunity. Everyone experiences change differently. It can feel new and exciting or scary and unpredictable.

Whatever your view of change, one of Christ's primary objectives for our lives is for us to change – for the better, even if our circumstances don't. God is far more interested in our hearts and hopes to lovingly shape us as we put our faith and trust in God.

If you are going through a season of change in your life (and you are), God's Holy Word offers encouragement to bring more peace to our lives as we live in and through transition. Some favorite Bible verses for transitions in life include:

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:6-7

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

Hebrews 13:8

*All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.*

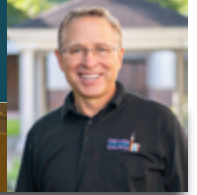
2 Timothy 3:16-17

## Worship in August

Join Ortega Church in Worship each Sunday morning at 10:30! Each week we will explore the transitions happening in our lives and our world. This includes celebrating and encouraging our Youth Ministry on August 4, our Family and Children's Ministry as they prepare to transition into the next school year on August 11, as well as to explore how to be found in Christ's presence and peace through transitions known and expected, and those unforeseen.

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

**Connecting to Our Community, Growing in Christ, Serving the World.**  
Ortega Church Mission Statement



## A Man After God's Own Heart

### 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  
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**Scott Coleman**

Director of Contemporary Music  
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**Charlie Mann**

Organist/Pianist  
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**Casey Sharp**

Ortega Playschool  
Director of Education  
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Ortega Playschool Director of  
Finance & Communication  
ortegaplayschool@gmail.com

**Jonathan Jennings**

Audio Visual  
jonj@ortegachurch.org

**Wyatt Cleland**

Maintenance Coordinator

**Alison Shriner**

Hospitality/Housekeeping



Faith and I want to thank you for our time away! We enjoyed our once-in-a-lifetime visit to Europe, and we certainly enjoyed spending the last week of our leave of absence with our new miracle baby granddaughter. It was a beautiful time with family and now we return refreshed and renewed to serve Christ and community with our Ortega Church family.

Most of our time in Europe was spent in Italy, which included one day in Florence – certainly not enough time. A highlight was our visit to the Accademia Gallery which hosts Michelangelo's famous statue of David. It is an amazing piece of art – the most famous statue in Florence and arguably in all the world. Michelangelo was commissioned to recount of the biblical battle between David and Goliath as told in the Old Testament Book of 1 Samuel. We all know the story...or do we? (Listen to Pastor Art's full sermon from July 21 at [www.ortegachurch.org](http://www.ortegachurch.org))

Prior to Michelangelo, all the artists and sculptors portrayed David **after** his triumph over a defeated Goliath. Michelangelo, for the first time ever, chooses to depict David **before** the battle. David stands ready yet seemingly relaxed. The slingshot over his shoulder is almost invisible, emphasizing that David's victory is not of sheer force. David's stance and facial expression transmit confidence and concentration – both needed for the battle about to unfold.

Chapter 17 shares this best-known biblical story – the story of David and Goliath – a memorable lesson on God's faithfulness even in the most impossible situations. This contest between men and nations and deities has embedded itself in the culture of every nation in the world. It is so well known that it has become the prevailing way of describing any conflict in which there is obvious disparity between the combatants.

In 1 Samuel 13:14 the youthful David is called "A man after God's own heart" – which means David puts God's honor, God's glory before all other considerations. David's later writing of Psalm 23 sheds light on David's daily walk with God which prepares him for the epic battle. The calm composed faith of David's reliance on God empowers him to conquer his enemies. David did not fight for himself alone but for the whole nation of God's people.

In far greater measure this and many other Bible accounts exemplifies in far higher measure the victories of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the presence and the power that enables God's people to overcome. Jesus fights the foe Death and defeats death for all people. We are encouraged by Christ not to fear whatever foe might be come against us. May we boldly work to defeat sin whether it is in our own hearts or at work in the world. May we boldly pray and live to defeat whatever giant may be threatening us to the glory of God as we live our faith in the peace of Christ and through the presence and power of God's Holy Spirit – here with you now, and always, and forever.

# FINANCES

Year-To-Date Report  
JUNE 30, 2024

## Revenue and Expenses

### Actual

#### Revenue:

**\$467,912**

### Actual

#### Expenses:

**\$429,522**

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

## Reflecting on Finances

Each month Ortega Church shares a snapshot of our Revenues and Expenses to date. Each month our Leadership Team also reviews detailed financial reports. The Church Budget is prepared as an annual budget of anticipated revenues from pledged gifts and consistent contributions, and correspondingly, anticipated expenditures for the fiscal year January through December. Any given monthly report could reflect revenues over expenses, or expenditures in excess of revenues. Again, our budget projections, reviews, and reports are based on anticipated annual giving and expenses.

We are grateful for the gifts entrusted to the ministry of our church. Pledged Gifts always give us better insight to prepare and live into our annual budget. Summer months are often a time when gifts to the church are overlooked, while December is often a time when pledges and contributions are fulfilled with year-end gifting. For questions or more detailed information regarding the church annual budget, please contact us at [financeoffice@ortegachurch.org](mailto:financeoffice@ortegachurch.org).

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

# ORTEGA LIFE CENTER



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



[ortegasports.com](http://ortegasports.com)



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



[ortega.sports](https://www.facebook.com/ortega.sports)

The Ortega Life Center is a life center/gymnasium. As a ministry of Ortega Methodist Church, the OLC has become a beacon for the surrounding neighborhood and greater Jacksonville area.

The Ortega Life Center offers a variety of sports & fitness opportunities for all ages. From small group fitness, yoga, to pickleball, basketball, soccer and volleyball, etc. Visit [www.ortegasports.com](http://www.ortegasports.com) to sign up!



**LEARN MORE AT [ORTEGASPORTS.COM](http://ORTEGASPORTS.COM)**



# ADULT MINISTRIES

Connect | Grow | Serve



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

Suggested for August

## The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry

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

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

### The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry by John Mark Comer

An easy life is not an option, but an easy yolk is. We are all busy. Some of us can't remember the last time we rested or even had free time. Our busyness can feel productive but it is a toxic distraction, sapping our spiritual, physical, and emotional vitality. It may seem like we have no choice but to live at a frantic pace, but God has a better path for us.

Join pastor and author John Mark Comer in this five-part series as he addresses one of the greatest threats to our spiritual lives: hurry. Instead of allowing our calendars and screens to control our lives, Jesus offers us a new rhythm of life, overflowing with grace, peace, and beauty.

#### Don't have a login?

Contact the church office for this free service and we will help you sign up.



### 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** will resume in September.  
(Parlor) Mondays at 1:00pm; (Parlor) Tuesdays at 1:00pm.

**Women's Prayer Group Thursdays at 10:30 AM**  
August 8 & 22; Meets every other Thursday at 10:30am in the Education Building.



### 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)

# ADULT MINISTRIES

## Methodist Men's College Football Breakfast



The Ortega Methodist Men will host a breakfast on Saturday, August 24 in Fellowship Hall at 8:30am. We invite you to a fun morning and to come dressed in your school colors!

We will hear about all of the changes regarding the major conferences and projections of our favorite teams for the season.

Our Guest Speaker will be Brent Beard, sportswriter and broadcaster since the early 1990s. Brent was a part of the 2018 College Football Playoff Mock Selection Exercise held in Grapevine, Texas. Brent, who is a Heisman Trophy voter, does segments on many sports radio stations across the South.

Travis Reier and Brent team up for the podcast "Second Helping". Brent is also the college football analyst for First Coast News. Brent lives in Fleming Island, Florida.

## Ortega Methodist Women

### Unit and Circle Meetings Will Resume in September.

For more information on Ortega Methodist Women, contact the Church Office at 904-389-5556 x118



# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

SERVE

One of Ortega Church's own, Sage Peterson: Founder and President of the Stanton Family Promise Club.



## Letter from Family Promise

Amidst the bustling hallways and vibrant classrooms of Stanton College Preparatory School, a beacon of joyful compassion emerges as students unite to champion Family Promise of Jacksonville. When I started the Family Promise Club at Stanton in 2022, I wanted nothing more than to "be the change I wanted to see in the world" and encourage my friends at school to do the same.

Stanton's Family Promise Club surpassed my hopes and dreams for it immediately, as students from all grades joined the club and showed genuine interest in supporting Family Promise in its journey to make a difference in the lives of homeless families. Our club members enthusiastically participate in activities to help Family Promise like collecting laundry supplies, gift wrap drives and making fun goody bags for the kids.

Our favorite club events are the Halloween Party and Cardboard City. For two years now the Stanton club has hosted a Halloween Party for the kids at Family Promise, and to say that it is awesome is an understatement! We love decorating and planning party activities for the kids, especially when we see how much fun they are having. When we threw the party in October and afterwards all the kids gave me a high five, I felt like the coolest person ever.

On the other hand, Cardboard City is probably my favorite event of all time, and our club gets to be super involved in it. Last year we had a huge turnout, and we made the most epic cardboard house. Our club loved the activities that were at Cardboard City, and that night I got to see just how much the Stanton Club has grown. Everyone should have a Family Promise Club at their school, it has made such a huge difference for me as a high schooler looking for an opportunity to give back to my community!

*Sage Peterson*





# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



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

## NURSERY

6 weeks - 4 years (Prek4)  
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

**PK 3 AND PK 4**  
NURSERY  
(corner door to  
left of flag pole)

**K - 1ST**  
ROOM 2  
(1st room on left  
in Ed. Building)

**2ND-3RD**  
ROOM 3  
(2nd room on left  
in Ed. Building)

**4TH -5TH**  
ROOM 8  
(1st room on right,  
upstairs, Ed. Building)

K-5th Pick up in Education Building

## BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY

AUG 11  
10:30

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**  
Bring your backpacks to Church

### PROMOTION DAY!

Check out the Kid's Church section  
above for your new room August 11th!



## 2ND GRADE BIBLES SEPTEMBER 8

Bibles will be presented Sept 8.  
E-Mail Shannon Jennings  
with your 2nd grader's full  
name, as you would like for  
it to be printed on their Bible.



[SHANNON@ORTEGACHURCH.ORG](mailto:SHANNON@ORTEGACHURCH.ORG)



The **Ortega Kid's Choir** will resume Wednesday, September 4 from 4:30pm-5:30pm.



# YOUTH MINISTRY



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



OrtegaChurch.org



ortegayouth



Ignite Youth

**YOUTH WEEK:**  
 August 1 - 4

august  
 2024

**PARENT MEETING:**  
 August 18  
 in the Chapel  
 4:30pm

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				Aquatica <sup>1</sup> Orlando	Shrimps Game <sup>2</sup> 5:30pm	Fun Times <sup>3</sup> TBD
Youth Sunday <sup>4</sup> 10:30am Broom Hockey 5pm - 8pm	5	6	7	8	9	10
The Glaze <sup>11</sup> 10am Enfuego 5:30pm - 7:30pm	12	13	14	15	16	17
The Glaze <sup>18</sup> 10am Enfuego 5:30pm - 7:30pm	19	20	21	22		
The Glaze <sup>25</sup> 10am Enfuego 5:30pm - 7:30pm	26	27	28	29		
						31

## Summer Youth Mission

**PROJECT 904**

The Ortega Youth Group spent a Summer Mission Week serving the local Jacksonville Community by participating in community initiatives! On July 16, our Ortega Youth worked together to have fun and serve the local community with a Car Wash at Ortega Church. The mission helped to provide Baby Wipes for the Baby Luv Ministry of Community Health Outreach. Participants were able to donate either money or a pack of baby wipes.

On July 17, Community Health Outreach was served with beautification of their grounds including mulching and landscaping by Ortega Youth. They wrapped up the day with an ice cream treat!

July 18 was spent with Ortega Youth building a Little Free Pantry - an easy way for neighbors to help neighbors with the donation of food and personal items. The Little Free Pantry is for everyone!



**AUGUST 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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## School Supply Drive for Venetia Elementary



**Your  
Back-to-School  
Donations can  
be dropped off  
in the Narthex or  
Church Office  
by or before  
August 11.  
Thank You!**

- 📎 Headphones (no ear buds)
- 📎 Large Erasers
- 📎 Hand Sanitizer
- 📎 Copy Paper
- 📎 Elmer's Glue Sticks
- 📎 Wide Rule Composition Books
- 📎 #2 Pencils
- 📎 Colored Pencils
- 📎 Post-It Notes
- 📎 Page Protectors
- 📎 Boxes of Kleenex
- 📎 Gallon Ziploc Bags
- 📎 Highlighters