



ORTEGA  
CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2024  
**THE SPIRE**

## **Time. Talent. Treasure.**

### The Three Pillars of Generous Living

*God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ.*

*All glory and power to God forever and ever! Amen. – I Peter 4:10-11*

One of the most exciting aspects of generous living is that there are countless ways to make a difference in the world for Jesus Christ. Living generously taps into your unique gifts, skills and creativity and almost always leaves the generous giver with an enriched sense of blessing. The simple, time-tested framework for generous living is built upon our time, talent and treasure.

**Time** – Time may be the most valuable resource we have. Generous living by providing your time to help others is a precious gift. Whether your time is shared in simple, short-term outreach, or in an ongoing endeavor, the double blessing is shared for those who receive and by those who give.

**Talent** – Whether ours is a unique skill or professional expertise, generous living by sharing our talent in service to others in need also brings unique special blessings. Those who donate their talent often provide a service or expertise that is often out of reach by the recipients of our gifting.

**Treasure** – When people think of generous living, we often consider donating from our treasure—a euphemism for sharing monetary gifts. Generous living is often a reflection of God's own giving – creative, purposeful, outcome oriented, and outwardly concerned for others.

October's Missions Month Celebration of Ortega Church's creative, purposeful, outwardly focused ministry towards the needs of others, leads the church family to November's Stewardship Awareness. May we pray that the creative and purposeful use our Time, Talent and Treasure will bring God glory and bless the ministry of Ortega Church through our generous living and giving – blessing others through the blessings that are ours in the grace and love of Christ Jesus.



**CHURCH CONFERENCE**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 11:30AM**  
**Immediately Following Worship**

Ortega Church's Annual Church Conference (business meeting) convenes immediately following a vibrant Sunday Morning Worship experience. The meeting is anticipated to be adjourned within 20 minutes. All voting members are encouraged to attend.

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



## Our Staff:

### Rev. Art McClellan

Pastor  
ArtMcClellan@ortegachurch.org

### Liz Holmes

Administrative/Financial  
Coordinator  
Liz@ortegachurch.org

### Grace Hambrick

Director of Ministry  
Grace@ortegachurch.org

### Melissa Millican

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

### Shannon Jennings

Director of Children's 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

### Casey Sharp

Ortega Playschool  
Director of Education  
ortegaplayschool@gmail.com

### Abby Steedley

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

### Jonathan Jennings

Audio Visual  
jonj@ortegachurch.org

### Wyatt Cleland

Maintenance Coordinator

### Alison Shriner

Hospitality/Housekeeping

## Thoughts and Prayers



We've all heard the words: "Our thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by"... [and you can fill in the blank with one of many recent tragedies: hurricanes, acts of war, horrific shootings, senseless tragedy, and the storms of life in your life]. Some say such statements have little meaning if not accompanied by meaningful action. So, should we stop sending our thoughts and prayers to grieving people?

I don't think so, but to their point, too often the cliché words "thoughts and prayers" are offered in place of meaningful action. Scripture is used to reinforce the point that thoughts and prayers without effective action are meaningless. James 2:14-16 encourages: *What good is it if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?*

In Paul's second letter to the Thessalonian Church he boasts, *We can't help but thank God for you, because your faith is flourishing and your love for one another is growing abundantly. We proudly tell God's other churches about your endurance and faithfulness in all the persecutions and hardships you are suffering.* Then Paul offers this prayer: *We keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May God give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do.*

No matter how helpless we may feel when expressing empathy with someone who has suffered great loss, no matter that we know our words alone will often not suffice, sincere thoughts and prayers have merit, they have value. In prayer, our thoughts are elevated to the work of our ministry when they prompt us to see what's really happening – not from our point of view, but to see from the view of those who are affected by the tragedy - to see a Kingdom of God point of view. Our thoughts are our work of ministry when they lead us to consider if there's any concrete action we might do or in our supporting others in their doing.

Likewise, our prayers are the work of our ministry. If you say your prayers are with someone, and you follow through by actually praying for them, you're putting yourself in a place to see beyond your own world view, your own needs, you are walking in someone else's shoes, you are walking beside others in their needs.

These prayers deepen our empathy and put us in a place where God can change us and lead us to some action we can take. In your praying, you are speaking to God on their behalf, seeking God's grace for them at a time when they may be so wounded they can't pray for themselves.

Paul advised the early Christians to *Be alert and disciplined so that you can pray. Love each other deeply, offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.* – 1 Peter 4

If you have a relationship with God, then prayer is a ministry action in that relationship. It may not always seem a decisive action, but it is an alert, mindful, discipline that brings a new purpose and new blessing to the situation, a gift we are presenting to the ones for whom we are praying. Our prayer ministry to them is asking for God's help. What greater source of help can we offer?



# FINANCES

Year-To-Date Report  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

## Revenue and Expenses

**Actual  
Revenue:**  
\$ 710,826

**Actual  
Expenses:**  
\$ 660,181

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

## Reflecting on Finances

Thank You for Giving! Each week in Worship we take the opportunity to reflect on and celebrate any number of certain ministries that literally would not take place in the life of our church or outreach into community except for the fact of our financial gifts. We don't do the work of the church without them.

The Revenues and Expenses Year-to-Date snapshot is based on anticipated annual giving from pledged gifts and consistent contributions, and correspondingly, the anticipated expenditures for the fiscal year January through December.

Each month our Leadership Team reviews the detailed financial reports of the church. For 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)

## JOIN A FITNESS CLASS

M W F

Morning Fit- 7:00am

M W F

Circuit Fitness - 8:00am

M W

Circuit Fitness (Silver) - 9:00am

TUES, SAT

Yoga- 6:00pm/9:00am

TUES

Chair Yoga- 9:00am

THURS

Gentle Restore Yoga- 6:00pm

[ORTEGASPORTS.COM](http://ORTEGASPORTS.COM)

**ADULT  
VOLLEY BALL  
OPEN GYMS**

DECEMBER 4,11,18 | 6-9PM  
ORTEGA LIFE CENTER

**GYM HOLIDAY CLOSURE:**

Wed Nov 27 - Sat Nov 30th

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

# ADULT MINISTRIES

Connect | Grow | Serve



Grace Hambrick  
Director of Ministry  
[Grace@ortegachurch.org](mailto:Grace@ortegachurch.org)

## 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** (Fellowship Hall) Mondays at 1:00pm;  
(Parlor) Mondays at 1:00pm

**Women's Prayer Group Thursdays at 10:30 AM**  
November 7 & 21; Meets every other Thursday at  
10:30am in the Education Building.

## Life Groups

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

### Monday Evening Life Group

Held the 1st and 3rd Mondays (through April). November 4 and 18. Led by Tom and Gretchen Lynch. Contact Gretchen for more information and location at [t-lynch@comcast.net](mailto:t-lynch@comcast.net)

### Tuesday Evening Life Group

Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:00pm (November 5 and 19). Led by Lee and Susan Norville, meeting in their home.

### Parents on the Run Life Group

Meets from 5:30-7:30 the first Sunday of every month. Child Care Provided at the Church; November 10 in the home of Lydia and Tim Snyder, December 8 in the home of Lauren and Jason Purdy, January 12 in the home of Elaine and Jason Koziol.

### NEW Mondays at 6:30pm (Parlor)

Small group dedicated to studying Matthew 5-7 and walking through life together. We will pray, study the Bible, and talk about life. We will use the PRAISE model. You're welcome to bring food with you to eat while we meet. Childcare not provided.

### NEW Sundays at 9:30am (Room 5)

Small group dedicated to studying Matthew 5-7 and walking through life together. We will pray, study the Bible, and talk about life. We will use the PRAISE model. Childcare provided.



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

Suggested for NOVEMBER



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

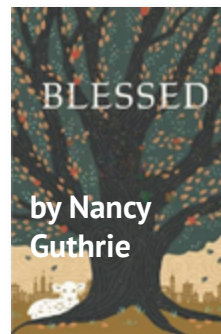
Explore the studies we hope you will enjoy!

## Living Generously

*When Mary anointed Jesus' feet with perfume and wiped them with her hair, it was a remarkably generous and loving act – one that continues to inspire us today. In this eight-part series, Jonathan de Bernhardt Wood explores the simple yet powerful moment in which a friend and follower of Jesus displays the kind of astonishing generosity God Himself pours out on us. The wonder of the gospel is that this can be your story too as you discover the freedom of living generously.*

### Don't have a login?

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



**Womens Bible Study** (Fellowship Hall)  
Mondays at 1:00pm

In this book, Guthrie shows how Revelation is less about when Jesus will return and more about who we are to be, what we are to do, and what we can expect to endure as we wait for Jesus to return to establish his kingdom in the new creation.

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



"Heaven" by Randy Alcorn invites you to picture Heaven the way Scripture describes it - a bright, vibrant, and physical New Earth, free from sin, suffering, and death, and brimming with Christ's presence, wondrous natural beauty, and the richness of human culture as God intended it. (7 Weeks)

# 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, November 5 at 10:00am in the Parlor.

The Ruth-Elisabeth Circle will meet Monday, November 11 at 11:00am in the Parlor.

The Lydia Circle will meet Tuesday, November 12 at 10:00am in the Parlor. We will be voting on the missions who will receive our support at our combined December meeting.



### Altar Flowers

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

The Cost is \$90.



# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH



## Save The Date!

Cardboard City 2024

November 15-16, 2024

At Lakewood Church

 **Family Promise**  
of Jacksonville  
**14th Annual**  
**CARDBOARD CITY**

We build understanding through The Social Services Maze at Cardboard City. This interactive experience gives participants the opportunity to move their "family" from homelessness to stability. They navigate seven stations, including shelter, employment, education, and housing. There are even roadblocks that could derail a family's success. This a great walkthrough experience for families to participate in. Find out more and sign up at: <https://familypromisejax.org/cardboard-city/>

## Did You Know...

In the month of October, Ortega Church:

- Prepared 12,500 Meals for Rise Against Hunger
- Prepared Seven Evening Meals for Family Promise
- Funded Iglesia Metodista de Placetas' new Sanctuary (Cuba Mission)
- Funded Methodist Children's Village modular classroom renovations
- Celebrated Faith-Based Partner Community Health Outreach's 36 Years of Ministry



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Shannon Jennings  
Director of  
Children's 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

## What's Happening

### ORTEGA KIDS CHOIR

Held Every Wednesday  
4:30pm-5:30pm

Room 3 in the  
Education Building



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

SHARE  
YOUR  
LOVE OF  
GOD

Join Our Amazing  
Volunteer Team of

### Sunday School Teachers!

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



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



# YOUTH MINISTRY



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

Thanks to all who  
assisted to unload and  
sell pumpkins in October!



Special Thanks to Shannon  
Jennings for organizing  
another successful season!



**Upcoming Events**

**November**

- 03** Sunday Mornings  
10AM - Youth Room  
Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24 - The Glaze & Youth Service
- 06** Wednesdays  
6:45PM-8PM  
Nov. 6, 13, 20 - The Mix  
Meet us in the Youth Room
- 10** Sunday Night  
5:30-7:30PM  
Enfuego - Join us in Fellowship Hall

No Youth on Wed Nov 27th

## THE GLAZE

Breakfast (donuts, bagels etc) and Bible Study in the Youth Room.

## THE MIX

Gathering in the Youth Room where we “mix” it up every week with activities.

## ENFUEGO

Classic Youth Group Night in the Youth Room. Snacks, Fun, Games, Worship and a Message.



[OrtegaChurch.org](http://OrtegaChurch.org)

# MEMBER NEWS



## All Saints Sunday



Sunday, November 3

- Mark Balcom
- Betty Sue Bickerstaff
- Linda Lockwood
- Neill McArthur
- Carl Sandusky
- Ronnie Sapp
- Erika Willingham

## New Member Sunday November 3

Ortega Church will receive several new families into membership during Sunday Morning Worship on November 3. If you are interested to join our church fellowship, or to learn more, please contact the church office at 904/389-5556 x118, or email Pastor Art at [ArtMcClellan@OrtegaChurch.org](mailto:ArtMcClellan@OrtegaChurch.org).

# WELCOME!

**NOVEMBER 2024**



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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)

## CUBA MISSION UPDATE



*We can't help but thank God for you, because your faith is flourishing and your love for one another is growing abundantly. We proudly tell about your endurance and faithfulness in all the persecutions and hardships you are suffering. - II Thessalonians 1:11-12*

A little over a year ago, Ortega Church began a Sister Church Relationship with Iglesia Metodista de Placetas, Cuba. During our missions team visit this past February, we were amazed by the ministry the small, meagered-means, joy-filled Church was undertaking in their community.

At the time, the congregation was squeezing into a very tight worship space inside the pastor's small home. Ortega Church dedicated our Easter Offering to build a new temple. Our gift funded the project, while the congregation used their gifts, skills and hands to build the new temple, now already in use.

