



ORTEGA
CHURCH



APRIL 2025
THE SPIRE

"I am the resurrection
and the life." - John 11:25

Holy Week Observances and Easter Sunday Worship Share the "I Am" Proclamations of Jesus Christ

"I am the Resurrection and the Life" is the fifth of the seven "I am" statements Jesus shares in the Gospel of John. It offers a godly perspective on several spiritual matters: Martha believes the resurrection is an event; Jesus shows us the resurrection is a Person. Martha's knowledge of eternal life was an abstract idea; Jesus teaches eternal life is a personal relationship. Martha thinks victory over death is a future expectation; Jesus corrects her, showing that victory is a present reality. Jesus asks Martha an all-important question: "Do you believe this?" May Martha's answer be ours: "Yes, Lord, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God."

"I Am" Lenten Study

Continues Sunday, April 6 with "*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*" (John 14:6), and Sunday, April 13 "*I am the true vine*" (John 15:1, 5).
Sanctuary; 10:30am

Palm Sunday Worship – April 13; 10:30am

Holy Week Observances begin Palm Sunday as we welcome Jesus into the city and our hearts with the ageless refrain: "*Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!*"

Easter Egg-Stravaganza – April 13; 11:30am

Join Ortega Church for our famous Fried Chicken Lunch, an Easter Egg Hunt, and a Cake Walk too! Fun for the whole church family and invited friends! See Page 6 for RSVP information.

Maundy Thursday Observance – April 17;

6:30pm; Boyd Chapel - A reflective gathering where we are reminded to remember "*the night in which Jesus gave himself for us.*"

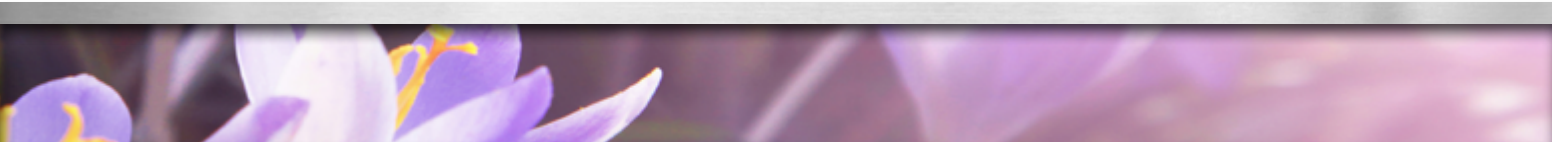
Good Friday Observance – April 18; 6:30pm;

Boyd Chapel - Easter's celebration of the resurrection is rightly weighed with the day of Jesus' crucifixion and death on the cross for our sin.

Easter Sunday Worship – April 20 – 10:30am

Join Ortega Church in our joyful celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ with Easter music featuring time-honored traditional hymns and modern music selections.

Community Sunrise Service hosted by Ortega Church, St. Mark's Episcopal and St. John's Presbyterian will be held in Stockton Park at 6:30am.



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



PASTOR'S POST by Rev. Art McClellan

On a Walk to the Village (The Methodist Children's Village)

Our Staff:

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jonj@ortegachurch.org

Wyatt Cleland

Maintenance Coordinator

Alison Shriner

Hospitality/Housekeeping



the deteriorating 47-foot entry ramp to the Toddler Classroom Building. Last year Ortega Church shared our Easter Offering to upgrade the building – a new roof and a fresh coat of paint have certainly increased the street appeal and life expectancy. Your financial gifts also covered the material cost for replacing the deck. Ortega Church volunteers help stretch those dollars to meet other needs.

I suppose at this time of year, with Easter fast approaching, some would quickly discern “On a walk to the village” to be the resurrection account found in Luke 24: On the same day (of Jesus’ resurrection), two of Jesus’ followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. As they walked along, they were talking about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. But God kept them from recognizing him. (Luke 24:13-16)

Picking up in verse 30, As they sat down to eat, Jesus took the bread and blessed it. Then Jesus broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. (Luke 24: 30-31)

I recently recognized Jesus on a walk to the Village – The Methodist Children’s Village. I actually drove the seven-mile journey early that Saturday morning. A small team of volunteers joined to take on the task to rebuild

Being part of this one day “hands and feet of Jesus” outreach is a little tiring on my worn body, but oh so refreshing to my soul. Good Christian company and good work lifts the spirit. After our Phase 2 building day – yes, there will be a third workday if your are interested – I began my walk at the village. It came to my mind and spirit that the MCV board, and Director and Staff also serve as the hands and feet of Jesus five days a week, 7am - 6pm, sharing their gifts for ministry with the least of these – children of working families who are trying to make ends meet.

As I walked, I notice the thriftiness of this barebones operation. I picked up a classroom broom that looked more like a porcupine to sweep up the remnants of our day’s work. More observations noticed that many of the classroom supplies are tired and worn (like I was feeling :-)) and need refreshing. Our Missions Team will soon encourage your support for the 2025 Easter Offering: A shopping list to refresh MCV’s spirit ... and ours. We pray you will share the resurrection spirit that is ours at Easter and always in this small outreach to the least of these.

FINANCES

Year-To-Date
FEBRUARY 28, 2025
Revenue and Expenses

**Actual
Revenue:**
\$93,922

**Actual
Expenses:**
\$81,854

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

The Restoration and Renewal of the Sanctuary Narthex

Special Gifts Campaign and Matching Gift Opportunity

The Leadership of Ortega Methodist Church has approved a limited funding campaign for the renovation of the Narthex entry to the Ortega Church Sanctuary. A matching gift incentive allows your gift to be doubled in value. The campaign began on Christmas 2024 and is expected to conclude on Easter Sunday 2025. Please contact Liz Holmes in the church office at 904/389.5556, x118 for a Campaign Giving Brochure, or use the QR Code to the right access our Online Giving. Please ensure your online gift is designated "Narthex Renewal Campaign." Thank you!

SCAN FOR GIVING PAGE



Call or email the Church Office with questions or concerns: 389-5556 x118 or financeoffice@ortegachurch.org.

ORTEGA LIFE CENTER



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



ortegasports.com



[ortegasports.jax](https://www.instagram.com/ortegasports.jax)



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

ADULT
VOLLEYBALL
SPRING SEASON
Begins April 3



REGISTER NOW
ORTEGASPORTS.COM

OLC
SUMMER CAMPS

SAVE THE DATE



16-19 JUNE, 2025
BASKETBALL CAMP



23-26 JUNE, 2025
MEGA SPORTS CAMP



7-10 JULY, 2025
VOLLEYBALL CAMP



Visit Our Website
ortegasports.com



ADULT MINISTRIES



Connect | Grow | Serve



Grace Hambrick
Director of Ministry
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

Mens Bible Study (Room 4) Wednesdays at 7:00pm

Men Alive! Bible Study (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
April 1 & 15; Meets every other Thursday at 10:30am in the Education Building.

Life Groups



Lenten Devotional - A 46-day reading guide through the Gospel of John. We will continue to use the P.R.A.I.S.E. model for this study from Ash Wednesday to Easter. This connects with our Sunday Worship time as we walk through the "I AM" statements found in John. If you did not receive a devotional in the mail, there are some available in the Narthex.

Monday Evening Life Group

Will resume in September. Contact Gretchen Lynch for more information at t-lynch@comcast.net

Tuesday Evening Life Group

Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:00pm (April 3 and 17).
Led by Lee and Susan Norville, meeting in their home.

Parents on the Run Life Group

Meets from 5:30-7:30 each month. Child Care Provided at the Church; April 13 at the home of Talley and Ronnie Roberts; May 4 at the home of Karen and Matt Worsham.

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

www.rightnowmedia.org

Suggested for
APRIL



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

Explore the studies we hope you will enjoy!

The Gospel of John: Part 2 with Tony Evans

Dr. Tony Evans returns for the eagerly anticipated The Gospel of John: Part 2. The second half of John shows us the love of the Father displayed in his Son. In this nine-session series, you will study Jesus's last days, crucifixion, and resurrection.

Through John's Gospel, Dr. Evans will show us the heart of God, the one who is ready to offer us hope and restoration in eternal life with him.

Don't have a login?

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

Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
Mondays at 1:00pm. Current Series - "Esther"

The book of Esther has all the elements of an epic drama - a beautiful young woman who becomes queen, her courageous cousin, a foreign land, and a murderous adversary. Plus this story unfolds in a time when the people of God are split between nations and feel uncertain about the future. 7 session study.'

Women's Bible Study (Parlor)
Mondays at 1:00pm. Next Series - "Heaven"

Heaven. Who goes there? Where is it? Dispel myths and media-influenced images to gain a biblical understanding of this essential truth. Jennifer Rothschild takes a deeper look at what God has prepared for his children, transforming wonder into excitement and peace.

ADULT MINISTRIES



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



Altar Flowers

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

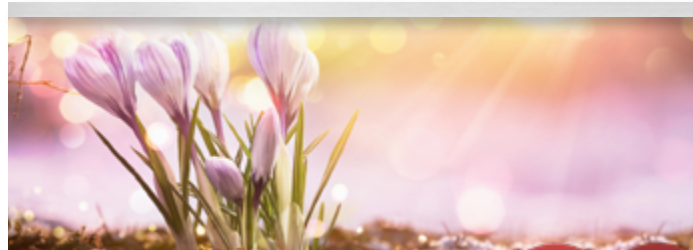
The Cost is \$90.



Ortega Methodist Women

The Ortega Methodist Women's Board will meet Monday, March 31 at 10:00am in the Parlor.

The Ruth - Elisabeth Circle and The Lydia Circle will have a combined meeting on Monday, April 14 at 11:00am in the chapel. Charlie Mann will be playing some of our favorite hymns and the Rev. Beth Tjoflat from St. Mary's Episcopal Church will be our special speaker. You are asked to bring any of the following items for their church pantry: full size soap, shampoo, deodorant, razors, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, and tooth brushes. Afterwards, the Lydia Circle will host a light lunch in Fellowship Hall.



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

SERVE

Cuba Mission Update

In February, Ortega Church missions team delivered adult and children's OTC medicines and reading glasses to Sister Church Iglesia Metodista de Placetas. On the following Sunday, Placetas Church medical team hosted a Pharmacy Fair with Hebrews 6:10 serving as their theme: *God will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for others.*



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Shannon Jennings
 Director of
 Children's Ministry
 Shannon@ortegachurch.org



Ortega Kids
 ortegachurch.org/ortega-kids



For the Month of April
Ortega Kids Choir
 will practice during
 Sunday Morning
 Children's Church

What's Happening

Easter
Egg-Stravaganza!

APRIL 13, 2025

FRIED CHICKEN LUNCH

RSVP Online by
 Sunday, April 6

QR Code

\$8 per person,
 \$35 max per family.



Sunday School Teachers Needed

If you would be interested in sharing your gifts by teaching just once a month, contact Shannon@ortegachurch.org or visit the QR Code below to sign up.



(Scan or Click Online)

Save the Date

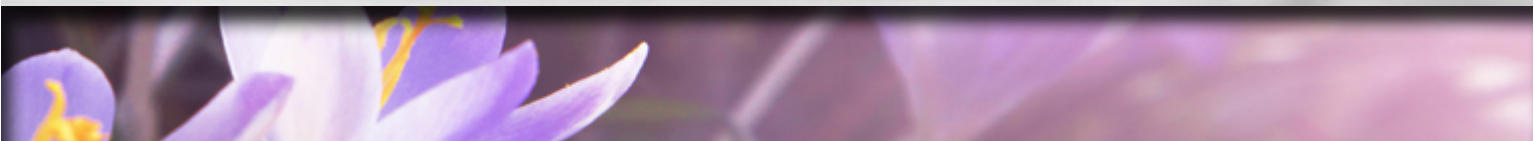
THIS YEAR WE ARE TRADING VBS FOR OUR EXCITING MSC!



MEGA SPORTS CAMP!

JUNE 23-26

Faith Exploration,
 Sportsmanship & Adventure!



KID'S CHURCH: 10:30: Sanctuary with Family | **10:45:** Dismissal to Kid's Church in the Ed. Building

<p>PK 3 AND PK 4 NURSERY (corner door to left of flag pole)</p>	<p>K - 1ST ROOM 2 (1st room on left in Ed. Building)</p>	<p>2ND-3RD ROOM 3 (2nd room on left in Ed. Building)</p>	<p>4TH - 5TH ROOM 8 (1st room on right, upstairs, Ed. Building)</p>
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K-5th Pick up in Education Building

NURSERY: 6 weeks - 4 years (Prek4) | 10:15 - 11:45; Room 19

YOUTH MINISTRY



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

HS BIBLE STUDY
9am
April 6, 13, 27

EASTER (April 20th)
No youth activities - join
your families for service!
Have a wonderful Easter!



Sunday Mornings

10am - 11:30am
April 6, 13, 27



Sunday - Youth Night

Join us on April 13th from
5:30-7:30p for our annual
Youth Egg Hunt!



Wednesday Nights

6:45pm - 8pm
April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Member News

Sacrament of Infant Baptism

Hudson MacKenzie Hitt, Baptized in worship on Sunday, February 23, 2025. Proud Parents are Jacob and Addison Hitt.



In Memoriam

May God's grace and peace be with those who mourn:

Elaine, Jason, Bryce and Baxley Koziol in the passing of Elaine's father, Jose Martinez Toledo.

Linda and Ray VanLandingham in the passing of their son, Darin VanLandingham.



APRIL 2025



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

Email: communications@ortegachurch.org
www.OrtegaChurch.org

Easter Lily Order Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____
(As you want it to appear in the acknowledgment)

In Loving Memory of:

In Loving Honor of:

of plants ordered _____ @ \$10.00/each = \$ _____

Please enclose payment with order form. Checks should be made to Ortega Church, 4807 Roosevelt Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32210

Make payment online by going to www.ortegachurch.org
"Give Online" and designate "Easter Lilies"

Deadline for placement in the Easter Acknowledgment: April 13, 2025

