



ORTEGA
CHURCH



MAY 2025
THE SPIRE

After Easter: A Journey to Pentecost

Ortega Church shares this new Worship series exploring the encounters, teachings, and commissioning of Jesus following his resurrection and leading up to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Each week highlights a key moment— from the Great Commission, the Ascension, to the birth of the Christ Church at Pentecost. The series will remind us that Jesus is patient with our struggles, calls us to mission, and empowers us through the Holy Spirit. As we walk this journey, we are invited to deepen our faith, embrace our calling, and live as bold witnesses for Jesus Christ.



Connecting to Community with On-Campus Outreach

The Ortega Playschool and the Ortega Life Center
Share the Joy of Christ's Love in Outreach to Our Community.

Ortega PlaySchool (OPS)

The Mission of Ortega Playschool (OPS) is to provide a loving, positive Christian environment in which to learn and play. The OPS strives to promote emotional, physical, intellectual and spiritual growth in each of our children, so they may develop to their full potential.

Each week Miss Audra and Miss Gwen celebrate OPS Chapel, filling Boyd Chapel with joyful song and creative Bible stories for our children's learning about God's love for them.



Ortega Life Center (OLC)

Have you driven by Ortega Church on a Friday evening and seen the glow of lights from inside Boyd Chapel and wonder what's going on tonight? Did you know that Boyd Chapel hosts OLC's Devos (Devotionals) with each league activity conducted by our gym ministry? The lights are often seen on Monday and Tuesday evenings, and Saturdays too! OLC Director Melissa Millican develops and delivers these inspiring devotions as she shares the love of Christ on the court and in the chapel.



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



PASTOR'S POST by Rev. Art McClellan

I am the True Vine

Our Staff:

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jonj@ortegachurch.org

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Alison Shriner
Hospitality/Housekeeping

In our recent Lenten Worship Series we explored the seven "I Am" statements Jesus declared for himself and his unique connection to God the Father. We closed the series with Jesus' "I am the true vine" (John 15:1-14). We read, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more."

One Saturday each month over the past few months, I have been attempting to reclaim the grape arbor that once produced great amounts of fruit at our family farm. Over the past few years, the vineyard fell into neglect. The vines have run all over the place, even up in the nearby pecan trees, and the thorny bamboo vines have grown among the grape vines. The weight of all the extra growth caused the trellises to collapse. For years the vineyard has not been pruned – it was just one big fruitless mess.



So, I took out the lop-shears, the pruning shears and even a chainsaw and I got all dirty and beat up and bloody to cut the branches from the vine. With chain and tractor I separated the fruitless branches from the vine and dragged it all into a

huge burn pile. A new trellis is now built and moving forward it will take time and attention to cultivate the new branches connected to the vine – properly prune and prop so they will produce even more fruit.



It's important to remember that in Jesus' illustration he isn't speaking about people who don't believe in God! Jesus is talking to believers when he speaks about branches that are already on the vine but who are not producing fruit. People who confess Jesus with their lips but who do not produce fruit with their lives. People who say they believe, but who don't allow themselves to be pruned for their own righteousness and for making disciples.

Jesus is speaking about a faith that produces actions and good works. Our faith in Jesus Christ is what saves us. Our knowing this fact should be evident by the fruit of our lives – evidence that our soul has been saved, and our spirit is connected to the Spirit of Christ. If we have faith in Jesus Christ there really should be fruit of our faith. The passage closes with Jesus sharing, "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

FINANCES

Year-To-Date
MARCH 31, 2025

Revenue and Expenses

Actual

Revenue:
\$210,487

Actual

Expenses:
\$218,050

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.

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)

SAVE THE DATE!

Mega Sports Camp

(June 23-26) - Register today at ortegasports.com
Grades Prek- 5th

Basketball Camp

(June 16-10)
Grades 1st - 4th

Volleyball Camps

(July 7-10)
Grades 3-5 and 6-9th

Adult Volleyball Summer League & Adult Pickleball Summer League

WWW.ORTEGASPORTS.COM

ADULT VOLLEYBALL
UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Cost \$4

Apr 17	NO OPEN GYM	May 8	OPEN GYM 7:00-9:00pm
Apr 24	OPEN GYM 7:00-9:00pm	May 15	OPEN GYM 7:00-9:00pm
May 1	OPEN GYM 7:00-9:00pm	May 22	SUMMER LEAGUE BEGINS Register at www.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

Women's Prayer Group Thursdays at 10:30 AM
May 1 & 15; Meets every other Thursday at 10:30am in the Education Building.



MomCo Group

We will be starting a MomCo (formerly MOPS) group at Ortega in the fall! If you want to be a part of it as a participant or leader, text MOMCO to 904-389-5556 or reach out to Grace.



M O M C O

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 (May 6 and 20). 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; May 4 at the home of Karen and Matt Worsham.

www.rightnowmedia.org

Suggested for MAY

OUTPOURING
[Unleashed with Holy Spirit Power]

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

Explore the studies we hope you will enjoy!

Outpouring: Unleashed with Holy Spirit Power with Jordan Gash

What happens when the power of the One who created the universe gets placed inside a group of people? What transpires when the power of the One who raised the dead to life fills a church? How does the world react when the power of the King of kings and Lord of lords comes and rests upon common men and women? This is what we see in Acts, chapter 2. As you go through this 5-session group study, you will be transported to the first days of the Church of Jesus Christ and witness their ignition and unleashing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, who was promised by Jesus, is not only for those first believers, but is promised to all who would call on the name of Jesus for salvation.

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. The story unfolds at a time when the people of God are split between nations with an uncertain future. While the name of God may not be mentioned in the book of Esther, its pages highlight His work among His people and foreshadow Jesus's very ministry to us—darkness to light, mourning to celebration, death to life.

In this 7-session study, Kelly Minter invites you into the daring faith modeled by Esther and her cousin Mordecai, a faith developed over time, rooted in the goodness of God, lived out through extraordinary circumstances, and used to change the world. Although our time looks different from Esther's, our God is just as active and faithful today, and He has called you for such a time as this.

Women's Bible Study (Parlor)
Mondays at 1:00pm. Will resume in the Fall.

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

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 Tuesday, May 6 at 10:00am in the Parlor.

The Ruth - Elisabeth Circle will meet Monday, May 12 at 11am in the Parlor.

The Lydia Circle will meet at 10am on Tuesday, May 13 in the Parlor. Fran Baker and Pam Volk will be our hostesses. A representative from Samaritan's Purse will provide our program. You are asked to bring gently used adult t-shirts.

We will not be meeting during June, July, or August. Don't forget our little church pantry during the summer and bring your items to the office.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

SERVE

FamilyPromise



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

JUNE 1 - JUNE 7

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:

Meals are needed - usually this means providing dinner for 8-12 individuals depending on the week. Meals can be delivered to Family Promise before 4:30pm each day. Families can reheat meals if delivered before 4:30. Meals may be homemade or purchased. All paper products and drinks have been supplied by our church for the week.

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER ONLINE

www.tinyurl.com/FamilyPromiseJune2025

OR CONTACT GRETCHEN LYNCH:

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

Praying for Placetas

Easter Greetings from our Sister Church Iglesia Metodista de Placetas. "Christ is risen, indeed!"



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



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

Save the Date

THIS YEAR WE ARE TRADING VBS FOR OUR EXCITING MSC!



MEGA SPORTS CAMP!

JUNE 23-26, OPEN NOW!

Register today at
www.ortegasports.com



Ortega Kids
ortegachurch.org/ortega-kids

Celebrating Easter: Easter Egg-Stravaganza 2025



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)



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



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

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

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY
9am Every Sunday
May 4, 11, 18, 25



Sunday Mornings

10am - 11:30am
May 4, 11, 18, 25



Sunday - Youth Night

5:30-7:30pm
May 4



Wednesday Nights

6:45pm - 8pm
May 7, 14, 21, 28

Ortega Playschool Easter Celebration



MAY 2025



4807 Roosevelt Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32210

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

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

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Easter at Ortega Church

