



ORTEGA  
CHURCH

September 2025  
**THE SPIRE**

# HOSPITALITY

## An Intentional Invitation

*Always be eager to practice hospitality. – Romans 12:13*

God's Intentional Invitation – that humanity would live in daily and eternal relationship with God through our faith in Jesus Christ, is both a universal and personal invitation. The “Divine Invitation” to seek God is a call to “Let your life be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind God will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship God” (Romans 12:1). Our personal invitation to an intimate relationship with God is often discerned through the prompting of God’s Holy Spirit as we read Scripture, lift our prayers, and worship God.

God’s intentional invitation is extended to Christ’s Church, who is called to share the vital role of extending God’s Divine Invitation by encouraging others in their journey of faith. Our Worship focus in September will be to encourage each of us to be eager to practice our gifts of hospitality – to live more intimately in God’s presence and to make God’s presence known to others. *Always be eager to practice hospitality. – Romans 12:13*

**We’ll See You for Sunday Worship in September at Ortega Church!**

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Rise Against Hunger – Sunday, October 5, 2025**

In October, Ortega Church will extend and practice our hospitality as we celebrate our Mission Partnerships to our community and around the world. On Sunday, October 5, we kick off our month-long missions focus with our Annual Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event. Two meal assembling sessions will be shared before and after our 10:30 Worship with the objective to create 15,000 meals to be delivered to hungry children throughout the world.

**Mark your calendars and sign up for one of our Meal Package Sessions:**



**Rise**  
AGAINST HUNGER

Scan or  
Click  
Online



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



# PASTOR'S POST by Rev. Art McClellan

## Hospitality: Place. Purpose. People.



### 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 Children's Ministry  
Shannon@ortegachurch.org

#### Nora Cash-Davie

Director of Communications  
Nora@ortegachurch.org

#### Karen Coleman

Director of Ministry  
Enablement and Member  
Experience  
Karen@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



As we see the final appointments being made to our Narthex Renewal project, I want to remind us that the renewed **place** was intended to have a renewing **purpose** that can only be achieved by a renewed **people**. The purpose of renewing the Narthex space – certainly a space in need of refurbishing – was to recreate a place for extending Christian hospitality. Now enlarged, the place has a purpose for people to be more welcoming, more engaging, so we would come to know one another better and we would be better at extending God's gracious welcome into God's worship and our community of faith.



With this purpose in mind, we are excited to announce that Karen Coleman will be joining our staff as Director of Ministry Enablement and Member Experience. Karen will assist our people to meet our renewed purpose in all our places of ministry. Karen's focus will be:

- To strengthen our church's infrastructure so our ministries run smoothly and consistently;
- To provide staff and volunteers with the clarity, tools, and training needed to thrive;

- And to enhance the experience of every member and guest who walks through our doors.

Karen brings over 20 years of leadership experience in program design, operations, and strategic planning within both church and corporate settings. She has a proven ability to build healthy systems, equip teams, and enhance the experience of those we seek to serve. She also has a deep commitment to our ministry as a member of Ortega Church for 13 years, with 3 children in our children and youth programs, and a heart for helping people feel connected and supported.

I want to invite you to be praying about you place and purpose as your church prepares to reinvite you to be part of our hospitality. As you prayerfully prepare your heart for this renewed call to ministry, be mindful to sense God's hospitality and grace at work within you as you prepare to partner with God to celebrate and to share God's hospitality and grace with others.

# FINANCES

Year-To-Date

July 31, 2025

## Revenue and Expenses

### Actual

#### Revenue:

**\$ 498,692**

### Actual

#### Expenses:

**\$ 517,284**

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](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)



[ortegasports](https://www.facebook.com/ortegasports)

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



**ALL DAY ON  
LABOR DAY!**

**+ Cosmic Blind Draw**

**Fri & Sat 8am-5pm  
Sept 5th and 6th**



**REGISTERING FOR  
FALL LEAGUES!**

**ADULT VB  
OPEN  
GYMS**

ORTEGA  
SPORTS

**9.4 OPEN GYM 7 TO 9PM**

**9.11 OPEN GYM 7 TO 9PM**

**9.18 NO VOLLEYBALL** 😞

**9.25 FALL LEAGUE BEGINS**

REGISTER FOR OUR UPCOMING FALL LEAGUE!  
[WWW.ORTEGASPORTS.COM](http://WWW.ORTEGASPORTS.COM)



# ADULT MINISTRIES

## Connect | Grow | Serve

For more information on weekly class offerings and Life Groups contact the Church Office at

**904-389-5556**

### 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 & Parlor)  
Mondays at 1:00pm

**Women's Prayer Group Thursdays at 10:30am**  
September 4 & 18; Meets every other Thursday at 10:30am in the Education Building.

## Life Groups

### DOING LIFE TOGETHER

#### Monday Evening Life Group

Held the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:30pm (Starting September 15; October 6 and 20). Led by Tom and Gretchen Lynch. Contact Gretchen for more information and location at t-lynch@comcast.net.

#### Tuesday Evening Life Group

Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:00pm (Starting September 16; October 7 and 21). Led by Lee and Susan Norville, meeting in their home.

#### Parents on the Run Life Group

Meets from 5pm-7pm each month. Child Care Provided at the Church. September 14 in the home of Trey and Christie Martin. Contact info@ortegachurch.org for information and Child Care.

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



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



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

**Explore the studies we hope you will enjoy!**

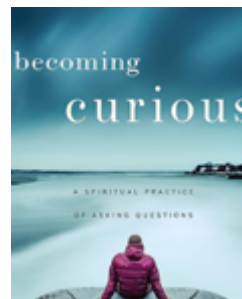
**OPEN THE DOOR TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS** with Logan Wolfram

Doing God's charge has everything to do with loving, serving and engaging people. But what can we do about a culture that's becoming more and more closed off and skeptical towards each other? Logan Wolfram, writer and Executive Director of Allume, talks about the significance of using our gifts and talents to serve and love others for the glory of God.

#### Don't have a login?

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

**Women's Bible Study** (Parlor) Mondays at 1:00pm, September 8. *Becoming Curious* - by Casey Tygett



A little curiosity moves us deeper into the lives of the people around us. A little curiosity, if focused on Jesus, will make us more like him. When we make curiosity a spiritual practice, we open up to new ways of knowing God and knowing ourselves as well. Come discuss and discover the power of asking questions.

**Women's Bible Study** (Fellowship Hall) Mondays at 1:00pm, September 8. *When You Pray* - by Jen Wilkin & Others



Join us to study prayers in the Bible that can inspire your own. You'll learn that God welcomes your praise and lament, your Thanksgiving and your intercession.

# 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)

### Altar Flowers

The Altar Flower Calendar is in the Narthex. Reserve your Special Sunday. The Cost is \$90.



## Ortega Methodist Women

We invite all the women of the church to join one of our circles. Please call Nancy Schwanbeck at 384-5940.

**The Ortega Methodist Women's Board** will meet Tuesday, September 2 at 10:00am in the Parlor.

**The Ruth-Elizabeth Circle** will meet Monday, September 8 at 11:00am in the Parlor.

**The Lydia Circle** will meet Tuesday, September 9 at 10:00am at the home of Margie Fox, 5117 Imperial Cove Road. Please bring three adult t-shirts and sharp scissors to make jump ropes.



We will be working at the Pumpkin Patch in October. You can sign up at your circle meeting.

Don't forget to bring your items for the Little Church Pantry to the office.

SERVE

# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

FamilyPromise



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 4**

**HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:**

Volunteers are needed to provide an evening meal. This can be homemade or purchased. The meals are delivered to the family promise office by 4:00pm each day. The family promise office is at 431 University Blvd N, Jacksonville, FL. We are updated on the numbers the week prior and usually have between 6-10 adults and children.

**SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER ONLINE**

[www.tinyurl.com/FamilyPromiseSeptember2025](http://www.tinyurl.com/FamilyPromiseSeptember2025)

**OR CONTACT GRETCHEN LYNCH:**

[t-lynch@comcast.net](mailto:t-lynch@comcast.net), (904) 333-0849

### Praying for Placetas

Ortega Church's Sister Church in Cuba

Iglesia Metodista de Placetas celebrates Vacation Bible School (schools open in September). 170 children ages 1 and 12 years attended, with more than 200 people attending the closing celebration.



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Shannon Jennings  
Director of  
Children's Ministry  
[Shannon@ortegachurch.org](mailto:Shannon@ortegachurch.org)

**It's About to Get  
Even More Exciting!**



Watch for Our  
Exciting Renewal  
of Ortega Church's  
Children's Ministry!



**Ortega Kids**  
[ortegachurch.org/ortega-kids](http://ortegachurch.org/ortega-kids)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### SAVE THE DATE:



**2ND GRADE BIBLES**  
will be presented  
**SEPTEMBER 21**

**Please contact Shannon Jennings**  
via [shannon@ortegachurch.org](mailto:shannon@ortegachurch.org)  
with your child's name as you  
want it printed on their Bible.

**Deadline: September 7**



**Sunday School  
Teachers Needed**

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



(Scan or Click Online)

**KID'S CHURCH:** 10:30: Sanctuary with Family | 10:45: Dismissal to the Education Building

**PK 3 AND PK 4**  
ROOM 15  
Preschool Building

**K - 2ND**  
ROOM 2  
Education Building  
(1st room on left)

**3RD-5TH**  
ROOM 3  
Education Building  
(2nd room on left)

K-5th Pick up in Education Building



# YOUTH MINISTRY



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



[OrtegaChurch.org/ortega-youth](https://OrtegaChurch.org/ortega-youth)

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

Donuts, games, worship, scripture and fun!  
Join us for Bible study in the Youth Room!

**10AM-11:30AM**

**SEPT 7, 14, 21, 28**



## SUNDAY EVENINGS

Once a month epic night of fun! Come join us this month and invite a friend!

**5:30PM-7:30PM**

**SEPT 14**



## WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Join us for large group games, a devotional, and small groups.

**6:45PM - 8:00PM**

**SEPT 3, 10, 17, 24**



## SAVE THE PUMPKIN DATES

On October 4th and 18th we will need EVERYONE to help us get the pumpkins unloaded off of the truck.

**9:00AM**

**OCT 4 & OCT 18**



# TERRY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Ortega Methodist Church  
Endowment Funds



For 25 years The Terry Scholarship Fund has gifted students with financial assistance toward their higher education pursuits, both at the graduate and undergraduate level. The Fund's benefactor Mary Virginia Terry's original purpose was to encourage those hearing a call to ordained ministry or to vocations in Christian service. The Board of the Endowment Fund and the Leadership of Ortega Church recently clarified the benefactor's original intent and is recasting the vision for qualifying candidates to receive scholarships from the Fund.

Currently, Asbury Theological Seminary plays a pivotal role in strengthening the Global Methodist Church (GMC) by equipping future pastors through scholarship support. Asbury recently received a \$1 million matching opportunity for donations directed to GMC scholarships. These scholarships will help fill pulpits with well-trained, theologically grounded, and missionally committed pastors at a time when the denomination is establishing its identity and momentum.

Through this partnership, Ortega Church has recommended that students receiving The Terry Scholarship are anticipated to serve the Florida Conference of the Global Methodist Church. The Terry Scholarship Fund is one of five endowed giving focuses of Ortega Church, including The Permanent Endowment Fund.

For more information visit: <https://ortegachurch.org/give/>

SEPTEMBER 2025



4807 Roosevelt Blvd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32210

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Playschool: 904-387-0749

Email: [Communications@OrtegaChurch.org](mailto:Communications@OrtegaChurch.org)  
[www.OrtegaChurch.org](http://www.OrtegaChurch.org)

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## The Pumpkins are Coming!

ORTEGA  
PUMPKIN  
PATCH

33 YEARS

This is our 33rd year of the Pumpkin Patch Ministry to our community. The Pumpkin Patch is also our biggest fundraiser! Our profits support our Ortega Church Youth year round.

### **VOLUNTEERS WELCOME & NEEDED:**

The patch is entirely volunteer run and we need families to help set up and work shifts in the pumpkin patch! You can sign up at the QR code.

### **SUPPORT OUR YOUTH & FAMILIES:**

All youth and their parents work at least 4 shifts each, attend both pumpkin unloadings, and set up the patch. Ortega Church Volunteers help the mission by signing up for shifts. If you have any questions, please contact Shannon - [Shannon@OrtegaChurch.org](mailto:Shannon@OrtegaChurch.org).



**SIGN UP TO  
VOLUNTEER:**



Scan or  
Click  
Online