



ORTEGA
CHURCH



October 2025
THE SPIRE

Hospitality: An Intentional Invitation

October's Focus on Missions and Outreach Shares "The Long Reach of Hospitality"

The theme of hospitality is found throughout our Bible, and when the Bible speaks of hospitality, it almost always ties it to strangers—people who aren't like us. Biblical hospitality means to give loving welcome to those outside your normal circle. Hebrews 13:2 teaches, *"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."*

At its root, hospitality comes down to a simple truth: Because God is hospitable to us – even when we are living apart from God, God invites us into his presence. Christians demonstrate that we truly appreciate the Divine hospitality we have received when we extend hospitality to others.

Following September's Hospitality focus for inviting and welcoming others into the community of faith, in October, Ortega Church will share our focus for *The Long Reach of Hospitality* through our Missions and Outreach Ministries, including:

Sunday, October 5 – Rise Against Hunger

9:30 – 10:15 – Rise Against Hunger Session I

10:30 – 11:30 – **World Communion Sunday Worship**

11:30 – 12:15 – Rise Against Hunger Session II



Register
Here



Sunday, October 12 – Community Health Outreach (CHO)



COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH

Dr. Rob Thomas, CEO shares the morning message of Community Health Outreach's vision to be an example of an ecumenical service ministry building relationships that heal mind, body, and spirit. CHO's mission is *"To glorify God and display the love of Jesus Christ by feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and clothing the needy."* (Matthew 25:35)

Sunday October 19 – Methodist Children's Village (MCV)



Ortega Church has been a ministry partner with Methodist Children's Village since the center opened in 1974. MCV's mission is to enhance the quality of young children's lives while supporting their parents' ability to nourish and cherish their children. **Kelly Paterno**, MCV Executive Director will share our Ministry Moments during morning worship.

Sunday, October 26 – Iglesia Metodista de Placetas, Cuba



Our Ortega Church Missions Team will share an exciting update on the impactful ministry of our Sister Church in Cuba. Our next **Mission Trip to Iglesia Metodista de Placetas, Cuba is planned for early February 2026**. For more information about the 2026 Mission Trip to Cuba, contact Cuba Coordinator John Newsom at rugbyfc@yahoo.com.

When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality. – Romans 12:13

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





PASTOR'S POST by Rev. Art McClellan



Always be Eager to Practice Hospitality Romans 12:13

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God's Divine Hospitality is found throughout our Bible – from the Book of Genesis' telling of God's creative genius and beautiful hospitality of welcoming humanity into the garden and inviting, "You may eat freely of the fruit of every tree in the garden (except the tree of knowledge of good and evil), to Revelation's themes of acts of hospitality reflecting God's love and grace extended both to the community of faith and to strangers.

From the Book of Genesis and the story of Abraham we can extract five principles for extending Christian hospitality, both celebrated within the community of faith and shared with strangers. From a reading of Genesis 18:

Principle One – Abraham was eager to practice hospitality. We all know people who love to offer hospitality. Others of us struggle with it, but hospitality is something we are all called to share. Again, our theme passage for our series is Romans is the command for Christ's Church and every person in it to use your gifts for ministry and "Be eager to practice hospitality."

Principle Two – It is Abraham's choice to offer hospitality. The three strangers did not ask for anything. They are simply standing there, giving Abraham the freedom to invite, or to ignore them. Christian hospitality is not to be shared out of guilt or fear. We practice true hospitality when we give from a freedom to choose. That is where the act becomes a blessing – a blessing to the one who receives ... and a blessing to the one who shares.

Principle Three – Abraham's hospitality has no strings attached. I recently shared a memory from way back in 1973 – when I was 13 years old – that made an impression on me for now 52 years. Briefly, a dinner guest, named Dr. Bouquet, who was a stranger to

me shared these words I still recall: "It is a good day when you see something beautiful; say something nice; and do something for someone who didn't expect it, and without the expectation of receiving anything in return."

Principle 4 – Hospitality can be disruptive.

Abraham is sitting in the shade of the flap of his tent in the heat of the day. He had probably been out in the field all morning, and now he was taking a breather. And then he sees these three people, standing there. He hadn't invited them. He didn't know them. He probably already had plans for his afternoon. I imagine the main reason people don't go out of their way to offer hospitality to others in need is because it will be disruptive of my plans.

Principle 5 – True hospitality honors your guests.

Abraham honors his guests. He goes far beyond what would have been expected. He runs to greet them, provides fresh bread and serves the best choice of meat and then he stands to wait on them while they eat. Abraham treats these strangers as though they were sent from God. Reading further in Genesis 18, the three strangers **are** messengers of God. In our NT, the Book of Hebrews tells us that when we show hospitality to strangers, we may without realizing it, be showing hospitality to messengers of God.

Jesus teaches a similar lesson in Matthew 25 (34-40), teaching by illustration that the person who welcomes the stranger, welcomes Jesus. Abraham simply welcomed and served these strangers, as Dr. Bouquet taught me more than 50 years ago: Do something for someone without expecting anything in return and it will be a good day. Meaning, it will be your good blessing.

FINANCES



Year-To-Date
August 31, 2025

Revenue and Expenses

Actual

Revenue:
\$ 572,001

**Actual
Expenses:**
\$ 587,129

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!

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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



**Celebrating our
10th Anniversary**
**CONSECRATED
OCTOBER 2015**

Volleyball ADULT LEAGUE

THURSDAY EVENINGS
LEAGUE BEGINS OCT 2ND

16 & OVER

COED

DRAFT TEAMS

XXXXX **REGISTER NOW** XXXXX

MLP PICKLEBALL FALL LEAGUE

Don't miss this fun style of pickleball. Teams consist of 2 men & 2 women. Divisions will be split based on skill level.

**FRIDAY NIGHTS
BEGINS OCT 10**

Game times are 6:00p or 7:30p

REGISTER NOW

Register Online at
www.ortegasports.com



ortegasports.com



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



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

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
October 2, 16, & 30; 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 (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 (October 7 and 21).
Led by Lee and Susan Norville, meeting in their home.

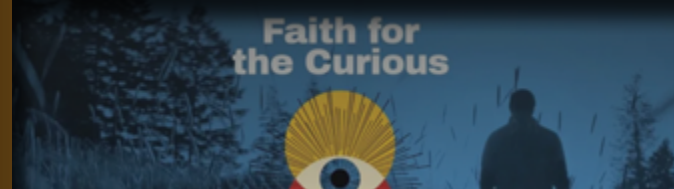
Parents on the Run Life Group

Meets from 5:30pm-7:30pm each month. Child Care Provided at the Church. October 12 - in the home of Scott and Karen Coleman.
Contact: Karen@OrtegaChurch.org, text 904-651-2857.

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



www.rightnowmedia.org



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

Explore the studies we hope you will enjoy!

FAITH FOR THE CURIOUS

In a world where spiritual curiosity is on the rise, many people are searching for meaningful answers and authentic conversations. Faith for the Curious, hosted by Mark Matlock (Barna senior fellow, author, speaker), is a dynamic course designed to equip you with the tools needed to engage spiritually open individuals well. This course provides insights into how you can meet people wherever they are in their spiritual journeys, exploring faith in a way that is authentic, empathetic, and thought-provoking.

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,
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,
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, 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

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, October 7 at 10:00am in the Parlor.

The Ruth-Elizabeth Circle will meet Monday, October 13 at 11:00am in the Parlor.

The Lydia Circle will meet Tuesday, October 14 at 10:00am in the Parlor with Elaine Balcom and her sister, Lori Osborne as hostesses. We have fifty boxes for Samaritan's Purse to fill. Stay tuned for more info.



We will be working at the Pumpkin Patch in October. Please call Gail Atchley to sign up at 904-616-2223.

CUBA MISSION – "TILE THE TEMPLE"



Temple Tile



Ortega Church Missions Team invites you to share in a Special Offering outreach with our World Missions Sister Church Iglesia Metodista de Placetas, Cuba. With roof, walls, windows and doors in place to welcome worshippers and to serve in outreach to their community, we now hope to "Tile The Temple" - a finishing aesthetic attribute that will also preserve the reverant space for years to come.

Your \$25 Gift provides 10-plus square feet of tile for the Temple floor. Gifts in any amount are welcomed as we encourage and support the amazing ongoing ministry of our brothers and sisters in Placetas!

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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Karen Coleman
Director of Ministry
Enablement and
Member Experience
Karen@ortegachurch.org



Get regular Ortega Kids updates by signing up to receive our weekly email and text by filling out your info here:



Scan or
Click
Online

WHAT'S NEW



Exciting Changes in Ortega Kids

We're entering a new season in Ortega Kids, and we're thrilled to share what's ahead!

Family First Sundays – Starting October 5

On the first Sunday of each month, children (K–5) will join their families in the Sanctuary for a family-focused service. Worship Bags will be available in the Narthex, and kids who complete the activity can trade it in at Courtyard Connect for a prize! These Sundays help children experience communion, grow comfortable in worship, and feel part of the whole church family.

New Sunday School Format – Starting October 12

Children (K–5) will now check in at the Education Building between 10:15–10:30 AM and go straight to their classrooms. We'll begin with worship and a short message, then move into age-based small groups for learning and fun!

Parents—Watch for a letter and the Fall Ortega Kids Calendar with all the details. Questions? Email kids@ortegachurch.org and sign up for Ortega Kids updates!

*Sunday School
Teachers Needed*



We are always looking for new recruits! Do you like having fun on Sundays? Do you enjoy being questioned by children and finding the answers or attempting to find the answers? Do have a heart for God and want to share your talents? Then Ortega Kids Crew wants you!

**Learn how you can be a part
of our children's ministry:**



kids@ortegachurch.org

If teaching isn't your thing, that's OK! We welcome all talents and you may have the missing piece.

Reminder: Starting October 12th - Ortega Kids Sunday School will start at 10:30AM in the Education Building with Sign In Between 10:15AM-10:30AM

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



OrtegaChurch.org/ortega-youth

SUNDAY MORNINGS

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

10AM-11:30AM

OCT 5, 12, 19, 26



SUNDAY EVENINGS

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

5:30PM-7:30PM

OCT 12



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

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

6:45PM - 8:00PM

OCT 1, 8, 15, 22, 29



SEE YOU AT THE PATCH!



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



MEMBER NEWS



Presentation of Second Grade Bibles

Ortega Church presented Bibles to six of our ten second-graders in Worship Sunday, September 21. "It's a great honor to share the gift of God's Word when our children are reaching the age of their proficient reading." - Shannon Jennings.

Those present to receive the Bibles presented by Pastor Art and Shannon Jennings (L-to R): Bailey Dyal, Hudson Fischer, Rivers Miller, Lynwood Roberts, Mac Smith, and Nalan Graves.

OCTOBER 2025



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www.OrtegaChurch.org

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OCTOBER MISSIONS & OUTREACH



MARK YOUR CALENDARS & SIGN UP

On Sunday, October 5, Ortega Church kicks 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 17,000 meals to be delivered to hungry children throughout the world. Sign up for a session at the QR code above or sign up online at tinyurl.com/RiseOct2025



CELEBRATING 100,00 MEALS!



Ortega Pumpkin Patch

This is our 33rd year of the Pumpkin Patch Ministry to our community. The Pumpkin Patch is also our biggest fundraiser, supporting our Ortega Church Youth year round.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME & NEEDED:

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

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER:



Scan or
Click
Online

