



ORTEGA
CHURCH

THE SPIRE
August 2026

A SERIES IN 2 PETER

STANDING FIRM

GROWING DEEP. STAYING TRUE. FINISHING WELL.



What does it take to stand firm in a world that is constantly shifting? Life has a way of testing us. We all face moments when we need courage, wisdom, hope, and a firm foundation that won't give way.

This summer at Ortega Church, we are walking through Peter's second letter in a message series called **Standing Firm**. Written near the end of Peter's life, this short New Testament book is filled with practical encouragement for believers who desire to remain faithful in an ever-changing world.

The good news is, it's not too late to join us! Each message stands on its own while building upon the timeless truths of God's Word. Join us for this inspiring time in God's Word.

AUGUST MESSAGE SCHEDULE

Sunday, August 2: An Assured Word
2 Peter 1:16–21

In a world filled with competing voices, discover why the Scriptures remain our sure and trustworthy foundation.

Sunday, August 9: A Watchful Heart
2 Peter 2:1–14
(Back to School Sunday)

Peter reminds us to remain spiritually alert, discerning truth from error, and keeping our eyes fixed on Christ.

Sunday, August 16: A Dangerous Drift
2 Peter 2:15–22

Learn how to recognize the subtle dangers of spiritual drift and remain anchored in God's truth.

Sunday, August 23: An Eternal Perspective
2 Peter 3:1–10

Because Christ is coming again, every day is an opportunity to live with hope, purpose, and faithfulness.

Sunday, August 30: A Steadfast Finish
2 Peter 3:11–18

Peter's final challenge is to continue growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ as we faithfully await His return.

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen." —2 Peter 3:18

FINANCES

Year-To-Date
JUNE 30, 2026

Actual Revenue:
\$ 416,919

Actual Expenses:
\$ 424,938

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

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



PASTOR'S POST

A NOTE FROM PASTOR BRENDAN

Our Staff:

Rev. Brendan Hock

Pastor
BrendanHock@ortegachurch.org

Nora Cash-Davie

Director of Finance, Operations
and Communications
Nora@ortegachurch.org

Susan Norville

Director of Ministry
Enablement and Member
Experience
Susan@ortegachurch.org

Melissa Millican

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

Christie Martin

Children's Ministry Coordinator
Christie@ortegachurch.org

Shannon Jennings

Ministry Assistant
Shannon@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/Technology
jonj@ortegachurch.org

Joe Ogno

Maintenance Coordinator

It hardly seems possible that my first month at Ortega Church has already come and gone. Since my first Sunday, my family and I have been overwhelmed by your kindness and hospitality. Thank you for the warm welcome you've extended through your prayers, encouraging words, thoughtful notes, and the many conversations we've shared before and after worship. You have made us feel right at home, and we are grateful.

I've also discovered something about Ortega—if I stand in the courtyard long enough after worship, I'm eventually going hear a great story! Beyond the worship, that's one of my favorite parts of Sunday mornings. If we haven't had the opportunity to visit yet, please don't hesitate to introduce yourself. I'd love to get to know you. Sign up for a Coffee Social below.

As August arrives, our attention naturally turns toward the beginning of another school year. New classrooms, new teachers, new schedules—and perhaps a few alarm clocks that have been enjoying an extended summer vacation! On **Back-to-School Sunday**, August 9 we'll take a few moments to pray for our students, teachers, & school personnel as we celebrate our annual **Blessing of the Backpacks** and ask God's blessing upon the year ahead.

One of the highlights of this summer gave many of our children the opportunity to participate in **Mega Sports Camp**, where

they learned biblical lessons centered around **Focus, Respect, Endurance, and Leadership**. I believe one of the greatest investments a church can make is in the next generation. As we continue to strengthen our children and youth ministries, I hope you'll join me in praying that God would continue to work among us, creating an environment where children and youth grow to know, love and follow Jesus Christ.

As we look toward the fall, I am filled with anticipation. A new ministry season always brings new opportunities to grow in our faith, deepen relationships, and invite others into the life of our church. I believe God has wonderful things in store for Ortega, and I am excited to see what He will do as we seek Him together.

In the meantime, enjoy these last few weeks of summer. Cheer for a student heading back to school. Encourage a teacher. Invite a friend to church. And if your mornings suddenly become a little more hectic, just remember—God's mercies are new every morning... especially on the first day back to school!

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your pastor. It is a joy to be here, and I look forward to all that God has ahead for us.

Grace and peace,



Meet the
Pastor

COFFEE SOCIAL

Call the Church Office:
904-389-5556



NOTE: There is still time for you to "Share Your Smile" as a welcoming gift for the Hock Family. **Email your individual or family photo to:** Admin@OrtegaChurch.org; **Subject:** Photo

CHILDREN

YOUTH

BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY - AUGUST 9



Join us for this Blessing of the Backpacks and Promotion day!

Bring your Backpacks and meet us for 10:30 Worship to Celebrate and prayer over a wonderful new school year to come!

2ND GRADE BIBLES - SEPTEMBER 13



Bibles will be presented September 13. E-Mail Christie Martin by Aug 30 with your 2nd grader's **full name**, as you would like for it to be printed on their Bible. Please e-mail to: Christie@OrtegaChurch.org



ORTEGA LIFE CENTER

Ortega Life Center Fitness Schedule

MWF: Morning Fit @ 7AM | MWF: Circuit Fitness @ 8AM

MW: Circuit Fitness (Silver) @ 9AM | TU/SAT: Yoga @ 6PM & 9AM

MWF: Chair Yoga @ 9AM | MWF: Gentle Restore Yoga @ 6PM



FOR MORE INFO:



MELISSA@ORTEGACHURCH.ORG

ADULT MINISTRIES

Current Weekly Class Offerings:

Open Door Class

(Room 4 - Education Building)
Sundays at 9:30am

Bible Believers

(Room 7 - Education Building)
Sundays at 9:30am

Renovate Class

(Parlor) 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 - (Parlor) Mondays at

1:00pm. (Fellowship Hall - Resumes September 14 with a study of Joshua by Jen Wilkins).

Women's Prayer Group - (Room 7 - Education

Building), August 6 and 20; Meets every other Thursday at 10:30am.

Life Groups will Resume in September.

AUGUST 2026



4807 Roosevelt Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32210

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

Email: Admin@OrtegaChurch.org
www.OrtegaChurch.org

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Jacksonville, FL
PERMIT NO.
1928

MEMBER NEWS

MISSIONS

Sacrament of Infant Baptism



Charles Edward Lynch
Baptized in Worship
on Sunday, July 23,
2026. Proud Parents
are Emmett and Kelly
Lynch.

In Memoriam

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



Stan Nettles
July 13, 2026

*But they that wait upon the
Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings
as eagles; they shall run, and not
be weary; and they shall walk,
and not faint. - Isaiah 40:31*

New Missions Ministry!



ORTEGA
Community Table

The Ortega Community Table is a meal prepared in Fellowship Hall on the last Friday of the month by the members and friends of Ortega Church. **A hot meal is served from 4pm-6pm** to our under-served neighbors, and a to-go bag of groceries is included. Come help us feed the hungry and care for the needy. Volunteers have the opportunity to share God's love with the less fortunate in our Community. There is also an opportunity to **prepare 100 Sandwich Bags from 11am -12pm** to be delivered to the City Rescue Mission for distribution.

To Volunteer: Text "SERVE"
to 904-389-5556 or visit the QR code:

