



ORTEGA
CHURCH

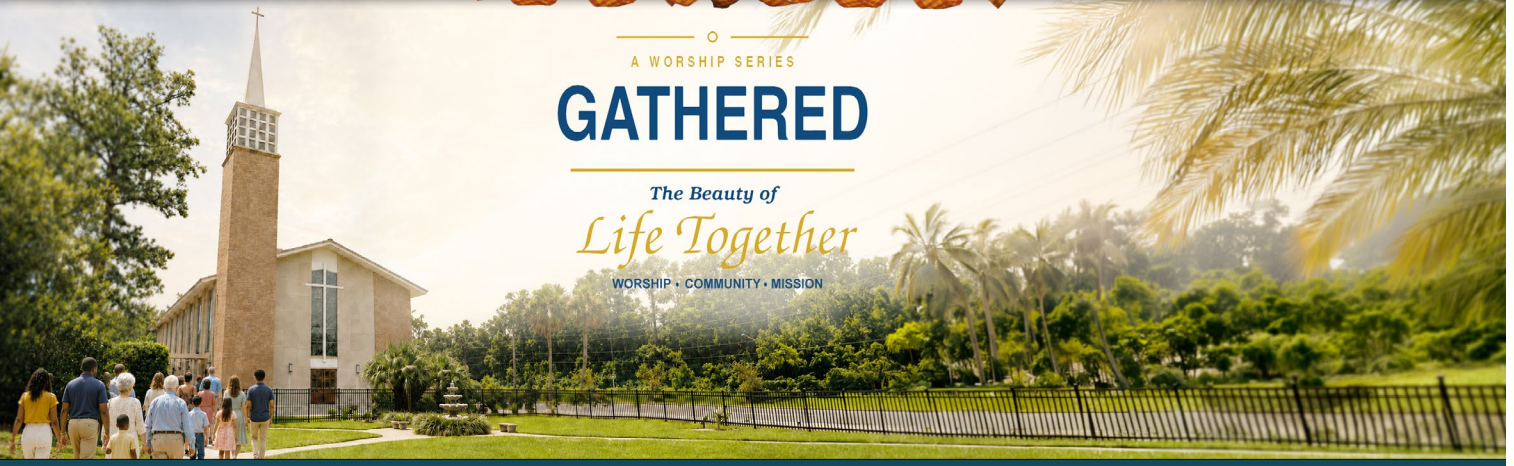
THE SPIRE
September 2026



A WORSHIP SERIES
GATHERED

*The Beauty of
Life Together*

WORSHIP • COMMUNITY • MISSION



The earliest Christians were learning in real time what it meant to follow Jesus together. They faced opposition from the world around them, practical needs within their fellowship, and the challenge of becoming the community Jesus had called them to be. Yet through it all, the beauty of what Christ had established became unmistakable: the Church.

Beginning September 6, *Gathered: The Beauty of Life Together* will explore the practices that held those first Christians together—and still shape the Church today. Their story reminds us that church is more than a service we attend. It is a people to whom we belong—a community where we grow, worship, serve, and share God's grace with the world.

What kind of worship does God desire—and how does it transform our lives?

Join us each Sunday and invite someone to come with you.

SEPTEMBER 6

Why We Gather

Acts 20:7–12

Why does gathering still matter in a world where so much can be experienced from a distance?

SEPTEMBER 13

Formed by the Word

Acts 2:42

With so many voices competing for our attention, how does God's Word shape the people we are becoming?

SEPTEMBER 20

Bound Together

Acts 2:44–46

What can the first Christians teach us about moving beyond simply attending church to genuinely belonging?

SEPTEMBER 27

Worship in Spirit and Truth

John 4:19–24

What kind of worship does God truly desire—and how does it transform the rest of our lives?

FINANCES

Year-To-Date
JULY 31, 2026

Actual Revenue:
\$494,896

Actual Expenses:
\$506,043

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

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



PASTOR'S POST

A LETTER FROM PASTOR BRENDAN

Our Staff:

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Building on a Strong Foundation

September, 2026

During these first weeks at Ortega Church, I have been grateful for the opportunity to hear your stories and learn more about the ministries that mean so much to this congregation. It was exciting to celebrate with our children at **Sports Camp**, see our students grow and reconnect during **Youth Week**, and watch our church welcome and care for our neighbors through our second **Community Table** event.

Experiencing these ministries firsthand has shown me how Ortega is a strong church with a beautiful history, faithful people, and a heart for serving its community. As we enter the fall, our goal is to build faithfully upon the strong foundation God has already established here.

One of the opportunities the church ministry team and I have been discussing is the return of a weekly traditional worship service. Many within our congregation have desired the return of this service for quite some time. After listening to church leaders, speaking with those who would help lead the service, and considering how it can best complement our present ministries, I believe the time is right to move forward. **Starting Sunday, October 4, we will offer a traditional worship service each week from 8:30–9:30 a.m. located in Boyd Chapel!**

Our **10:30 blended worship service** in the Ortega Sanctuary will not change. Both services will share the same Scripture and sermon each week, allowing us to worship in

different ways while remaining centered upon the same message. We will be one Ortega Church family with two opportunities to worship while sharing a joint Sunday School hour for adults at 9:30.

Throughout the remainder of the fall, our staff and ministry leaders will continue listening, praying, and preparing. We want to build upon the enthusiasm we have seen at Sports Camp (VBS), the growing engagement of our youth, and the spirit of hospitality demonstrated through Community Table. **We will look for ways to continue strengthening the ministries already serving our children, youth, and family ministries.** Any further plans will be developed carefully and communicated clearly as they take shape.

Strong churches honor the foundation of their past by continuing to listen and pray for where God is leading next. God has blessed Ortega Church, and I am excited to build upon that blessing together—with gratitude for our past, confidence in our foundation, and trust in God's faithful guidance for our future.

Welcome Home & Blessings on the Journey!



NEW WORSHIP SCHEDULE COMING OCTOBER 4!

8:30 - TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
CHAPEL (NEW SERVICE)

10:30 - BLENDED WORSHIP
SANCTUARY (AS USUAL)

CHILDREN

YOUTH



FAMILY FIRST SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6

Family First Sunday is a special, kid-friendly worship service held on the first Sunday of each month. On these Sundays, children stay with their families in the main service center. **There is no Sunday School this day.** To help kids stay engaged, we provide **Ortega Kids Activity Bags** with fun things to do during the service. Pick up your bags in the Narthex before the service. If kids turn in their completed activity at the end, they'll receive a **special prize!**

PARENTS ON THE RUN - RESUMES SEPT 13

This is a parent group that meets monthly from 5:30pm-7:30pm for fellowship and parental support, to pray for and help each other out. Child care is provided in the Church Education Bldg (5:15-7:45). **Contact Christie@ortegachurch.org** for more info. 9/13 will be held at the home of Elaine & Jason Koziol, 1472 Edgewood Ave S, Jacksonville, FL.



**VISIT
QR TO
SIGN UP**

ITS TIME FOR ORTEGA CHURCH PUMPKIN PATCH SIGN-UPS FOR ADULTS AND ORTEGA YOUTH!

Pumpkin Set-Up: Sunday, 9/27 at 4 p.m.

Unloading #1: Saturday, 10/3 at 9 a.m.

Unloading #2: Saturday, 10/17 at 9 a.m.

Note: Ortega Youth & Parents are expected on the above dates as well as serving at least 4 shifts each.

JOIN US EVERY WEEK!

WEEKLY YOUTH GATHERINGS

THE GLAZE • SUNDAYS • 10:00-11:30 AM

THE MIX • WEDNESDAYS • 6:45-8:00 PM

FALL SCHEDULE



RSVP for Elevation Rhythm Tickets by September 9.

ORTEGA LIFE CENTER

K-1 BASKETBALL CLINIC

COED • KINDERGARTEN & 1ST GRADES

MONDAY NIGHTS • 5:00-6:00 PM

6 WEEKS • BEGINS SEPTEMBER 14

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!

NEW LEAGUE!

2ND-3RD GRADE BASKETBALL

PRACTICES • TUESDAYS

GAMES • SATURDAYS

LEAGUE BEGINS AUGUST 29

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW

NEW LEAGUE!

4TH-6TH GRADE BASKETBALL

PRACTICES • WEDNESDAYS

GAMES • SATURDAYS

LEAGUE BEGINS AUGUST 29

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW

NEW!

ADULT MINI HOOP

8.5 FT

COED DUNK LEAGUE

MONDAY NIGHTS

BYOT • BRING YOUR OWN TEAM

LEAGUE BEGINS SEPT. 14

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW

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 6pm

Mens Bible Study (Room 4) Wednesdays at 7pm

Men Alive! Bible Study (Parlor) Thursday mornings at 6:45am

Womens Bible Study - (Parlor) Mondays at 1:00pm. (Fellowship Hall) Mondays at 1:00pm - study of Joshua by Jen Wilkins begins September 14.

Women's Prayer Group - (Room 4 - Education Building), September 3 and 17; Meets every other Thursday at 10:30am.

Ortega Methodist Women

Board Meeting - Sept 1 at 10am in the Parlor.

We want to invite all the ladies of the church to join our group. Call Nancy at 904-384-5940.

OMW Meeting - Tuesday, Sept 8 at 10am in the Parlor. We are pleased to have Pastor Brendan coming to talk with us. You are asked to bring small sized items for our mission, Bouquets of Kindness - for Riverside Presbyterian Senior Apartments. They include toothpaste, shampoo, hand wipes, soap, or sponges.

AUGUST 2026



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www.OrtegaChurch.org

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TERRY SCHOLARSHIP

MISSIONS



The C. Herman Terry Scholarship

We are excited to announce this years recipient of the Terry Scholarship is David Dunn. David was deployed to Afghanistan in the Air Force Reserve and is now pursuing a degree from Asbury Seminary. The Terry Scholarship was established to support and encourage students who are pursuing ordination or Christian ministry in the Methodist tradition. If you would like to submit an application for the Terry Scholarship, please reach out to the church office.

FamilyPromise



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SEPTEMBER 20 - 26

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 at 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/FamilyPromiseSept2026

OR CONTACT GRETCHEN LYNCH:

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



Fellowship Hall - last Friday of the month (Next: September 25)

Prepare 100 Sandwich Bags
from 11am -12pm to be delivered to the City Rescue Mission for distribution.

Hand out Hot Meal from 4pm-6pm and a to-go bag of groceries.

To Volunteer:

Text "SERVE"
to 904-389-5556
or visit the QR Code:

