



ORTEGA
CHURCH

THE SPIRE
October 2026

GATHERED

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42

Something happens when the people of God gather. We walk through the doors carrying different stories—joys and burdens, questions and hopes, victories and struggles. But when we gather around Jesus, we discover that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. We become the Church.

That's what we've been discovering in our Message Series, Gathered. Acts 2 gives us a remarkable picture of the earliest Christians: ordinary people whose life together was being transformed by an extraordinary God. They worshiped. They prayed. They opened their lives to one another. And the world around them began to take notice.

This October, we'll continue asking what their story means for our story. What happens when worship becomes a way of life? When we share the stories of what God has done? When grace opens not only our hearts, but our hands?

Because when God's people truly gather, we don't just go to church. God forms us into the Church.

OCTOBER 4 (World Communion Sunday)

One Table, One Body

1 Corinthians 10:16–17

As Christians around the world gather at Christ's table, we celebrate the grace that unites us across every boundary and reminds us that in Christ, we are one body.

OCTOBER 11

A People of Praise

Acts 2:40–47

The earliest Christians were marked by joyful worship and gratitude. What would change if praise became more than something we sing and instead became the posture of our lives?

OCTOBER 18

Stories of Grace

Acts 2:43–44

Every life touched by Jesus has a story worth telling. We'll consider how sharing what God has done in our lives can encourage one another and point others toward Christ.

OCTOBER 25

Generous Together

Acts 2:44–45

The grace the early Christians received changed the way they saw everything they possessed. We'll explore how hearts transformed by Jesus naturally become generous hearts willing to bless others.

NEW WORSHIP SCHEDULE COMING OCTOBER 4!

8:30 - TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
CHAPEL (NEW SERVICE)

10:30 - BLENDED WORSHIP
SANCTUARY (AS USUAL)

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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BrendanHock@ortegachurch.org

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and Communications
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Director of Ministry
Enablement and Member
Experience
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Joe Ogno

Maintenance Coordinator

Expecting God to Work Among Us

October 2026

There is a joy in worship at Ortega Church that is hard to miss.

Each Sunday, as we gather in the Sanctuary to praise, pray, and open God's Holy Word, there is a real sense that **God is present here and at work among us**. I hope you feel it too. I know I do. My prayer is that we never take that for granted, but continue coming each week with expectation—celebrating that God is changing hearts, renewing lives, and drawing people closer to Himself.

Meagan and I have also loved seeing that same joy extend beyond Sunday mornings. As Life Groups have started gathering again this fall, we've enjoyed spending time with some of you and seeing the beautiful friendships that already exist throughout Ortega Church. Even more encouraging is the way you are making room for new people. A simple invitation, an open seat, or taking the time to learn someone's name can say something powerful: **There is a place for you here**.

And that same spirit of welcome leads us right into one of our biggest opportunities this October—the **Pumpkin Patch!**

Yes, the Patch raises important funds for our Youth Ministry, but it is also a wonderful bridge between Ortega Church and our community. For several weeks, families will walk onto our campus to buy

pumpkins, take pictures, laugh, and spend time together. And every one of those visits is an opportunity for us to simply be **the people of Jesus**—to smile, welcome, encourage, and share His joy.

So I hope you'll sign up to serve for an hour or two this October. Just come, meet our neighbors, offer a warm welcome, and help us fill the Patch with the hospitality and joy of Ortega Church. You never know what a simple conversation or kind word might mean to someone.

Whether we are gathered in the Sanctuary, sitting together in a Life Group, or standing among pumpkins on the front lawn, our calling is the same: **to make the love and hope of Jesus visible**.

God is at work here at Ortega Church. Let's move into this fall with open hearts, expecting Him to continue working among us—and through us.

Because whatever the season, **there is always hope in Jesus**.

Grace and Peace,

FINANCES

Year-To-Date
AUGUST 31, 2026

Actual Revenue:
\$571,410

Actual Expenses:
\$579,658

*Thank
You!*



FALL EVENTS



MOVE IN THE PATCH

CHURCH FAMILY FUN!



OCTOBER 23, 2026

7PM, PUMPKIN PATCH

Bring a friend & some chairs & meet us in the Patch! Popcorn will be available, & Kona Ice for purchase.

**PUMPKIN PATCH SIGN-UPS:
ADULTS AND ORTEGA YOUTH!**



UNLOADING #1:
Saturday,
10/3 at 9 am

UNLOADING #2:
Saturday,
10/17 at 9am

**SIGN UP
FOR SHIFTS
AT THE QR CODE**



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

ORTEGA LIFE CENTER



PLAY
CONNECT
COMMUNITY

ORTEGA SPORTS

ALL
SKILL
LEVELS
WELCOME

BASKETBALL OPEN GYMS

	K-5TH GRADE TUESDAYS • SEPT. 22-OCT. 27	5:00-7:00 PM
	6TH-12TH GRADE MONDAYS • SEPT. 21-OCT. 26	6:00-8:00 PM
	ADULTS 18+ WEDNESDAYS • SEPT. 23-OCT. 28	7:00-9:00 PM

\$10 PER PERSON

Elementary students must be accompanied by an adult.

LEARN MORE ONLINE AT
ORTEGASPORTS.COM

OCTOBER PICKLEBALL COSTUME BLIND DRAW

COME DRESSED IN YOUR BEST COSTUME!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

WARMUPS • 6:00 PM	TOURNAMENT • 6:30 PM
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\$10 ENTRY | **RANDOM PARTNERS** | **DOUBLE ELIMINATION** | **PRIZES TO TOP TEAMS**

ADULT VOLLEYBALL OPEN GYMS

AGES 16 & OVER

THURSDAY NIGHTS

6-9 PM

\$7

AUGUST 20 & 27
SEPTEMBER 3, 10, 17 & 24

ORTEGA SPORTS

CONTACT: MELISSA@ORTEGACHURCH.ORG

ADULT MINISTRIES

GROW

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

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 - (Fellowship Hall & Parlor)
Mondays at 1:00pm (See more info below on the right).

Women's Prayer Group Thursdays at 10:30am
October 1, 15 and 29; Meets every other Thursday at 10:30am in the Education Building.

Life Groups



Mon Evening Life Group - Contact Gretchen Lynch for information: t-lynch@comcast.net.

Tues Evening Life Group - In the home of Lee and Susan Norville. October 6. Contact Susan@ortegachurch.org

Parents on the Run - 5:30pm-7:30pm each month. Child Care provided at the church from 5:15-7:45. Upcoming Dates: October 11, November 8, & December 13. Contact: Christie@OrtegaChurch.org.

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

WHAT'S NEW



Photographer: James Dwight Davis

NEW TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

Beginning October 4

8:30AM-9:30AM

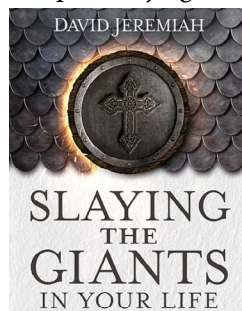
Boyd Chapel



WOMEN OF FAITH
JANUARY 30, 2027
Details to come.

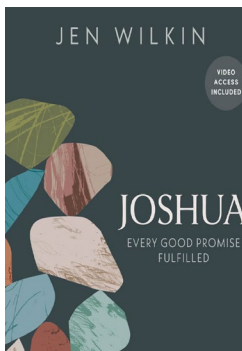
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) Meets Mondays at 1:00pm, "Slaying the Giants in Your Life" by David Jeremiah



How do we defeat giants like guilt, failure, worry, temptation, and doubt? These are daunting giants, but thankfully we have access to God's Word, which is a wealth of knowledge, encouragement, and power. We are not weak - we are empowered!

Women's Bible Study (Parlor) Mondays at 1:00pm, *Joshua - Every Good Promise Fulfilled* by Jen Wilkins



"None of the good promises the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled." Joshua 21:45. We battle not against flesh and blood as they did, but we courageously war against the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, trusting in the finished work of the true and better Joshua, Jesus Christ.

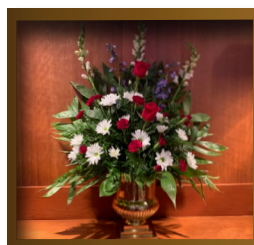
ADULT MINISTRIES



How Can We Pray For You?

We invite you to share prayer requests by calling the church office, 389-5556 x102, sending an email to admin@ortegachurch.org, or completing the prayer request form at www.ortegachurch.org.

Would you like to join our Prayer Ministry Team?
Contact admin@ortegachurch.org



Altar Flowers

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



**Ortega
Methodist
Women**

Board Meeting - The Ortega Methodist Women's Board will meet Tuesday, October 6 at 10:00am in the Parlor.

OMW Meeting - The Ortega Methodist Women will meet Tuesday, October 13 at 10:00am in the Parlor. We will be brain storming a special event.



We will be volunteering at the Pumpkin Patch the month of October. You can sign up at the meeting or call Gail Atchley at 904-616-2223.



MISSIONS & OUTREACH



Fellowship Hall - last Friday of the month (Next: October 30)

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:



NOVEMBER 8, 2026

On Sunday, November 8, Ortega Church kicks off our 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 or online at tinyurl.com/RiseNov2026

REGISTER



Two Sessions:
9:30 and 11:30

MARK YOUR CALENDARS & SIGN UP



Join Ortega Church volunteers as we take on light repairs and clean-up projects inside and out with our community mission partner, Methodist Children's Village.

MCV WORKDAY

**Saturday, November 14
9am-12pm**

Methodist Children's Village is located at 7915 Herlong Rd. Contact the church office for questions - 904-389-5556.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

REMINDER:

**Ortega Kids Sunday
School starts 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



Get regular Ortega Kids updates by signing up to receive our weekly email by visiting the QR code.

NURSERY

10:15-11:45; Education Building
6 weeks - 2 years (Prek4) - Rm 5
3-4 years (by Sept 1, 2026) - Rm 6

FAMILY FIRST SUNDAY: OCTOBER 4, 2026

Kid-friendly worship service -the first Sunday of each month. Children stay with their families in the main service center. **There is no Sunday School this day.** 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!**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

We want to share an important update regarding our Children's Ministry. After faithfully serving as our Children's Ministry Coordinator for the past six months, Christie Martin will be stepping away from this role.

We are grateful for Christie and the leadership she has provided during this season. She has blessed our ministry through her gifts as a school teacher and parent, and especially through her love for Christ and God's children. While stepping away from the coordinator role, Christie looks forward to continuing to support our Children's Ministry in the future, and we are thankful that she will remain part of this important ministry.

Our Staff-Parish Relations Committee has begun the process of finding our next Children's Ministry Coordinator. This will be a part-time position of up to 20 hours per week. In the meantime, Shannon Jennings will coordinate our Children's Ministry in an interim capacity, and we are grateful for her willingness to serve during this transition.

If you or someone you know may be interested in this opportunity, please contact Staff Parish Relations Committee Chairperson, Frank Yong at fjyong@yahoo.com. Our SPRC also includes Abby Dyal, Lauren Purdy, Stacey McKendree and Pastor Brendan Hock, who are helping guide the search.

Please join us in thanking Christie and Shannon for their ministry and in praying for God's guidance as we continue building a strong ministry with the children and families of Ortega Church.

2ND GRADE BIBLES



Ortega Church presented Bibles to our second-graders in Worship Sunday, September 13.

YOUTH MINISTRY



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

ORTEGA
YOUTH FALL
SCHEDULE:



34TH ANNUAL PUMPKIN PATCH SUPPORT

Come Support our Youth Ministry by serving our community in the Pumpkin Patch!

Did you know: The Pumpkin Patch is our biggest fundraiser! Our profits support our Youth year round. Volunteering in the patch is a great way to support our youth as well as spend time with the local community.

The patch is entirely volunteer run and we need ALL youth and their families to help set up and work shifts in the pumpkin patch!



There are many spots available - sign up at the QR code or visit us online:
www.tinyurl.com/PumpkinVolunteer2026



MEMBER NEWS



Sacrament of Infant Baptism



Jack Harrison Dodd was Baptized in worship on Sunday, August 30, 2026. Proud Parents are Riley and Sarah Dodd; brother William.

In Memoriam



May God's grace and peace be with those who mourn:
CeCe & Spencer Cummings as well as family and friends in the passing of Joni Bifano on September 2, 2026.

SHARE YOUR SMILE!



If you have not yet, there is still time for you to "Share Your Smile" for us to put into Church Teams for the Hock Family.

Email your individual or family photo to:
Admin@OrtegaChurch.org

Subject: Photo

OCTOBER 2026



4807 Roosevelt Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32210

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

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

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ORTEGA CHURCH MISSIONS UPDATE



We're doing something a little different with missions this October!

Traditionally, October has been a special time to highlight the many mission ministries and outreach efforts of Ortega Church. This year, we're excited to build on that tradition by carrying our mission emphasis throughout the entire year.

Beginning this fall, we'll share a special Mission Moment once a month. These moments will help keep the important work of our mission partners before our church family as we hear stories, celebrate what God is doing, and discover ways to pray, give, and serve.

This October, we look forward to highlighting **Community Table**, with its next outreach taking place on **October 30**, and **Rise Against Hunger**, as we prepare for our special meal-packing event on **November 8**. (See more information on Page 5).

Missions has always been an important part of the heart of Ortega Church, and we look forward to celebrating that heart throughout the year.

Together, we'll continue to Connect to Community, Grow in Christ, and Serve the World.