

Current Schedule

Sunday School: 9:30am

Morning Worship: 10:45am

Evening Worship: 5:30pm

Midweek Prayer Meeting:

Wednesdays @ 6:00pm over Zoom

Meeting #: 571-733-1401

Password: ortegapca



4406 Longfellow Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32210

JUNE ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 1 - Diaconate Meeting (5:30pm)

June 7 - Evening Worship begins (5:30pm)

June 15 - Session Meeting (6:30pm)

Returning after COVID

June - Sacrament of Communion (1st & 3rd Sundays) & Nursery Care (AM only) Resumes

July - Passing the Offering Plate & Sacrament of Baptism Resumes

July - Prayer Meeting Returns to Sunday Evenings (5:30pm)

July 18 - Men's Study Resumes

August - Monthly Fellowship Meals Resume



Issue 3 - June 2020

Pro Ecclesia (for the church) is a publication encouraging the worship, community, and mission of Ortega Presbyterian Church

Ortega's Officers & Staff

The Session

Josh Hinson, Pastor
Nick Ainsworth, Ruling Elder
Carl Hunter, Ruling Elder

The Diaconate

Mike Butler
Clif Estes (on leave)
Alex Knauss
Harold Walma

Music Director/Admin. Asst.
Kevin Morris

PRO ECCLESIA

"for the Word of God, and the testimony of Jesus Christ." ~ Revelation 1:9

4406 Longfellow Street Jacksonville, FL 32210 | 904.389.4043 | ortegapres.com



Why You Should Commit to Evening Worship

Rev. Joshua Hinson

"Do you *have* to go back to back?" my friend was asked when his colleague heard that the local Presbyterian Church, of which my friend was a ruling elder, held two services on Sundays.

Until recently, going "back to back" was the norm. Morning and evening worship was a staple in the piety of many Protestant Christians. However, offering two services these days has a little different meaning. It's usually due to constraints on space or even a preference for traditional or contemporary worship. It's increasingly rare to find a church that *regathers* to close the Lord's Day together in the presence of God.

Reestablishing an evening service is something Ortega's session has considered, approved, and then postponed; but having established a viable prayer meeting on Sunday evenings, we think that now is an appropriate time to move forward. Some of you will remember when Ortega held an evening service. Some of you have been a part of churches where Sunday

evening worship was held. Others may never have experienced or even considered a second service on the Lord's Day.

With the full realization that returning to church in the evening would be extremely difficult for some in our congregation (we want this service to be a blessing and not a burden), I want to give you some biblical and practical reasons why you should (if you're able) commit to this second worship service beginning June 7th. Let's start with the biblical basis.

TWO BIBLICAL REASONS

1) *The Biblical Pattern*

You may remember from our series of sermons in the book of Exodus that when the levitical priesthood was instituted a lamb was to be offered every day at morning *and* at twilight.

(continued on next page)

Granted, this was the pattern of tabernacle worship and not necessarily a precept for Christians in the New Covenant, but the idea of worshiping God in these two parts of the day is a *pattern* we find in Scripture. Psalm 92 for instance, which is a Song for the Sabbath Day, says,

*It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,*

This was the pattern our spiritual forefathers saw in Scripture that informed their practice of beginning and ending the day of worship gathered in God’s presence, with his people, and around his Word.

2) *The Biblical Precept*

I can’t say dogmatically from the aforementioned pattern that an evening service is Scripturally mandated. It is a pattern (and a good one), but what *is* certainly mandated is that we keep holy the Lord’s Day and that we “not forsake the assembling of ourselves together” (Heb. 10:25). In fact, with regard to the latter exhortation, not only are we not to neglect meeting together, we are to do so and encourage one another “all the more” as the day of Christ’s return draws near. Not less, but more; and after having our worship services suspended recently, should we not long for these opportunities all the more?

Of course, the foundation for all of this is rooted in the fourth commandment, that we “Remember the Sabbath day” (Ex. 20:8). In a recent film about the attempt to bring to light a neurodegenerative disease found in professional football players due to repeated head trauma, one of the characters spoke to the futility of challenging the National Football League in this matter. “The NFL owns a day of the week. The same day the church used to own. Now it’s theirs.”

As God’s people, we know the first day of the week remains the Lord’s Day. It is the day the new creation dawned; the day of resurrection and the day we celebrate all that God has done for us and anticipate the fullness of all he will do for those united to his Son.

When we know we will regather for worship before the day ends it helps us to keep the day set apart for worship and rest. We are less likely to “go our own

way and do our own thing” (Is. 58:13), but to call the Lord’s Day a “delight” and keep our thoughts and affections fixed on him.

But there are some practical reasons I’d like to add as well.

TWO PRACTICAL REASONS

1) *Fellowship*

Some of you have expressed the desire for a greater sense of community among the members of our church. This is understandable. We’re spread out all over the city and the greater Jacksonville area. Community groups or midweek meetings would alleviate (and have in the past) some of what is lacking in that sense of fellowship and community. But before we add another activity during the week - where many of us are already slammed with work, family, children’s activities, hobbies, and other commitments on top of the current studies available to the men and women of our church - let’s consider how to make the most of the day already set aside for rest, worship, and time with our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Some of the greatest memories my family carries in their file followed worship on Sunday evenings. There is a different atmosphere on Sunday night when the church regathers. We’ve already seen one another. We’ve been washed with the water of the Word and we’ve gathered at the Lord’s table. Some of us have since gathered at one another’s tables. Some have taken a nap and are refreshed. We come back eagerly expecting the Lord to speak once again, and we eagerly anticipate that time together with our brethren. I’d be hard pressed to find a better way of enjoying fellowship on the Lord’s Day than bookending it with worship together.

2) *Fostering Growth*

I have two things in mind here. One is obvious. If we are to “receive with meekness the implanted word which is able to save our souls,” an evening service gives us twice the opportunity to put ourselves in the pathway of God’s means of grace. We have twice the opportunity to praise the Lord with our uplifted voices, to call upon his name, to slow down and sit down at our Lord’s feet, and to be instructed and comforted from the reading and preaching of holy Scripture.

JUNE FAMILY & PERSONAL WORSHIP GUIDE

SCRIPTURE MEMORY & CATECHISM IN A YEAR

June 1-7: Memorize - **Ps. 19:7-8;** Westminster Shorter Catechism **48-49**
Q. 48. *What are we specially taught by these words before me in the first commandment?*

A. These words before me in the first commandment teach us that God, who seeth all things, taketh notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other god.

Q. 49. *Which is the second commandment?*

A. The second commandment is, Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

June 8-14: Memorize: **Ps. 19:9-11;** WSC **50-51**

Q. 50. *What is required in the second commandment?*

A. The second commandment requireth the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath appointed in his word.

Q. 51. *What is forbidden in the second commandment?*

A. The second commandment forbiddeth the worshiping of God by images, or any other way not appointed in his word.

June 9-21 - Memorize: **John 6:35;** WSC **52-53**

Q. 52. *What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment?*

A. The reasons annexed to the second commandment are, God’s sovereignty over us, his propriety in us, and the zeal he hath to his own worship.

Q. 53. *Which is the third commandment?*

A. The third commandment is, Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

June 22-28 - Memorize: **Gal. 6:10;** WSC **54-55**

Q. 54. *What is required in the third commandment?*

A. The third commandment requireth the holy and reverent use of God’s names, titles, attributes, ordinances, word and works.

Q. 55. *What is forbidden in the third commandment?*

A. The third commandment forbiddeth all profaning or abusing of anything whereby God maketh himself known.

June 29-July 5 - Memorize: **Psalms 34:1-3;** WSC **56-57**

Q. 56. *What is the reason annexed to the third commandment?*

A. The reason annexed to the third commandment is that however the breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment.

Q. 57. *Which is the fourth commandment?*

A. The fourth commandment is, Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Ideas for Daily Personal and Family Worship

- Keep it simple.
- Be consistent.
- Read! A chapter, paragraph, or a few verses of Scripture and take away one central truth and how it may apply to you.
- Pray! Bring needs before the Lord in prayer - praying for our church members and ministries, our missionaries, your family, and the world.
- Sing! - Learn a hymn each week or keep a church bulletin handy and practice the psalm of the month.

BIBLE READING PLAN

These readings can also be listened to each day on the ESV M’Cheyne Reading Plan podcast. Listen on your commute, while you exercise, or at your leisure. The Gospel Coalition website publishes D.A. Carson’s devotional accompaniment to this plan in both text and audio formats. This plan, developed by the 19th cent. Pastor Robert Murray M’Cheyne, takes the reader through the OT once and through the NT and Psalms twice each calendar year.

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|---|---|
| • June 1 - Deut. 5; Ps. 88; Is. 33; Rev. 3 | • June 16 - Deut. 21; Ps. 108-109; Is. 48; Rev. 18 |
| • June 2 - Deut. 6; Ps. 89; Is. 34; Rev. 4 | • June 17 - Deut. 22; Ps. 110-111; Is. 49; Rev. 19 |
| • June 3 - Deut. 7; Ps. 90; Is. 35; Rev. 5 | • June 18 - Deut. 23; Ps. 112-113; Is. 50; Rev. 20 |
| • June 4 - Deut. 8; Ps. 91; Is. 36; Rev. 6 | • June 19 - Deut. 24; Ps. 114-115; Is. 51; Rev. 21 |
| • June 5 - Deut. 9; Ps. 92-93; Is. 37; Rev. 7 | • June 20 - Deut. 25; Ps. 116; Is. 52; Rev. 22 |
| • June 6 - Deut. 10; Ps. 94; Is. 38; Rev. 8 | • June 21 - Deut. 26; Ps. 117-118; Is. 53; Matt. 1 |
| • June 7 - Deut. 11; ps. 95-96; Is. 39; Rev. 9 | • June 22 - Deut. 27; Ps. 119:1-24; Is. 54; Matt. 2 |
| • June 8 - Deut. 12; Ps. 97-98; Is. 40; Rev. 10 | • June 23 - Deut. 28; Ps. 119:25-48; Is. 55; Matt. 3 |
| • June 9 - Deut. 13-14; Ps. 99-101; Is. 41; Rev. 11 | • June 24 - Deut. 29; Ps. 119:49-72; Is. 56; Matt. 4 |
| • June 10 - Deut. 15; Ps. 102; Is. 42; Rev. 12 | • June 25 - Deut. 30; Ps. 119:73-96; Is. 57; Matt. 5 |
| • June 11 - Deut. 16; Ps. 103; Is. 43; Rev. 13 | • June 26 - Deut. 31; Ps. 119:97-120; Is. 58; Matt. 6 |
| • June 12 - Deut. 17; Ps. 104; Is. 44; Rev. 14 | • June 27 - Deut. 32; Ps. 119:121-144; Is. 59; Matt. 7 |
| • June 13 - Deut. 18; Ps. 105; Is. 45; Rev. 15 | • June 28 - Deut. 33-34; Ps. 119:145-176; Is. 60; Matt. 8 |
| • June 14 - Deut. 19; Ps. 106; Is. 46; Rev. 16 | • June 29 - Josh. 1; Ps. 120-122; Is. 61; Matt. 9 |
| • June 15 - Deut. 20; Ps. 107; Is. 47; Rev. 17 | • June 30 - Josh. 2; Ps. 123-125; Is. 62; Matt. 10 |

MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT

Ortega PCA Missions

"...all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD..."

- Num 14:21

Tommy & Nikki Park - Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at the University of North Florida

Ray Clotaire - Elohim Evangelical Church of Jacksonville.

Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

New Harvest Missions International
(Nathaniel Adawonu)

Donald & Claire-lise Cobb - Aix-en-Provence, France
(Mission to the World)

Paul & Crystal Henry - New Zealand

Denominational News

The 48th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, set to take place this month in Birmingham, was postponed until 2021 and will be held in St. Louis.

One of the biggest discussions in the PCA at the moment is on the issue of human sexuality and same sex attraction.

The report from the Ad Interim Committee on Human Sexuality can be read on the General Assembly website, pcaga.org.

Our missions spotlight for June is on Donald and Claire-Lise Cobb in Aix-en-Provence, France.

A Visit from the Cobbs

We were privileged to have Donald and Claire-Lise visit us in the fall of 2019. Pictured on the right is Donald addressing our adult Sunday School class. Donald and Claire-Lise presented and provided updates on their ministry. Donald teaches at the Reformed Seminary in Aix-en-Provence, training men for ministry in the Francophone world. Claire-Lise shared her work in children's education and curriculum development and Donald preached in the morning worship service.



The Cobbs were back in the states on Home Ministry Assignment when they last visited us but have since returned to France. In their latest prayer/update letter from April, Donald shared some of what life has been like for them recently. Because of Claire-Lise's visa situation, she had to leave the U.S. some six weeks before Donald but was able to spend some time with her family in Switzerland. Donald helped move his mother in with his sister and brother in law in Mississippi, but due to the COVID situation his own departure was moved forward and he was able to return to Aix-en-Provence just one day before travel in and out of France was interrupted.

Regarding COVID-19, the Cobbs have themselves battled the virus. Donald writes:

"Since returning to France, Covid 19 has become a daily preoccupation for all of us. This has been particularly the case for Claire-Lise, who caught it herself, probably during the return trip from her parents' in Switzerland. Fortunately it has been a fairly mild case, with few respiratory difficulties. She's been very tired because of it, though, and there have been some after effects for which she's being followed by our family doctor. I had some of the symptoms as well for several days, but am almost certainly a "healthy carrier," for which I'm thankful."



Like many of us, many normal activities were put on hold for the Cobbs, including seminary classes and small group meetings, but they've managed to hold virtual studies online.

Please continue to pray for the Cobbs and look for their next newsletter - which you may subscribe to as well - in the *Ortega Weekly* email we send out each Friday.

One pastor noted in an encouragement for his parishioners to commit to evening worship, "What is most meaningful in a Christian's growth is not the impact of one outstanding sermon but rather the cumulative impact of the preached Word week after week after week." While the Lord has given us many means for our growth in grace, the preaching of the Word is the primary means the Spirit of God uses. Corporate worship is, as the Puritan Jeremiah Burroughs said, "the place where God is pleased to dispense his choicest mercies to his children."

There is another way in which an evening worship service can foster growth in our congregation, and that is by providing opportunities for those who have a sense of call to ordained ministry in the PCA. The Lord has blessed our congregation with two such men. However, their sense of call is not enough. They need you as well. I want to encourage you to take your responsibility seriously to evaluate and affirm their gifts and graces so that they prove to be men qualified for office in Christ's church. Give them your feedback, encouragement, and support.

This time can also serve as a training ground for future officers and leaders in the church. We're able

to see something of someone's hunger for God's Word, love for the brethren, and how this plays out in their commitment to the stated meetings of the church. Another service gives us more opportunities to interact with one another and to notice how our members step up to serve in needed areas or provide encouragement and instruction to those they engage with in conversation.

There is no question that adding an evening service will be a challenge. It is difficult to get up and out the door once again - especially for a household with young children. It requires more work for the pastor to prepare a second sermon. It requires more volunteer service, more accompaniment and leadership musically, and more commitment from our members. But it's a challenge worth taking up, and I'm convinced one we will not regret. So I would urge you to commit for a season, not merely ease in and out. Rather, think of it like a cold but refreshing swimming pool. Instead of dipping your toes, you'll find the best way to get accustomed to the water is simply to jump in.

So, do you *have* to go "back to back?" Why wouldn't you, if you're able?

THE CHURCH IN PRAYER

Pray for Ortega Pres, Her Ministries, Officers, Members, and Mission

- Lord's Day Worship
- Ladies' Study
- Men's Study
- Tommy & Nikki Park/RUF @ UNF
- Greenville Seminary
- North Florida Presbytery
- Sunday School
- 3 Members/Families of the Week (from weekly email)
- Donald & Claire-lise Cobb, France
- Prayer MTG
- Session
- Diaconate
- New Harvest /Nathaniel Adawonu
- Elohim Church/Ray Clotaire
- Paul & Crystal Henry in New Zealand

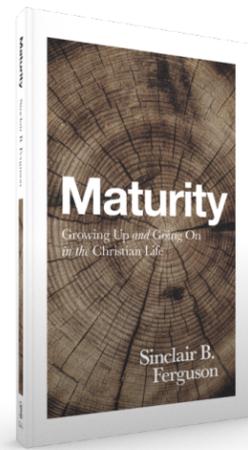
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Men's Study and Welcoming New Members



The men of Ortega are currently reading and discussing *Maturity: Growing Up and Going On in the Christian Life* by Sinclair Ferguson.

This group meets on the first and third Saturday mornings of each month in the dining room of Panera Bread in Roosevelt Square at 7:30am. Due to COVID-19 concerns, this meeting was indefinitely suspended but will begin meeting again on July 18th. The location will depend on the availability of Panera's dining room.



Welcome to our newest members: Sam & Laura Oates and Carlos & Elizabeth (Bibby) Rivera.



Congratulations to Peter and Anna Cerreta on the birth of their daughter, Annabella, born Feb. 17th.

Adult Sunday School - Summer Quarter (Church History)

THE REFORMATION a Ligonier Teaching Series

by Robert Godfrey

June 14 - Introduction to the Reformation

June 21 - Martin Luther's Early Life

June 28 - Martin Luther & the German Reformation

July 5 - Martin Luther and the Growing Protestant Movement

July 12 - Martin Luther & the Anabaptists

July 19 - From the German Reformation to Geneva

July 26 - John Calvin & Geneva

Aug. 2 - The Theology of John Calvin

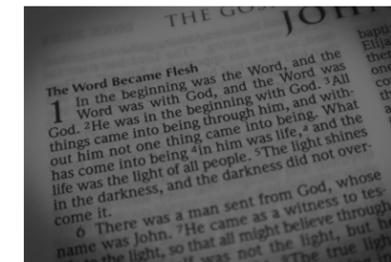
Aug. 9 - The Catholic Reformation

Aug. 16 - The Scottish Reformation

Aug. 23 - The Dutch Reformation

Aug. 30 - The Synod of Dort

An outline with questions for discussion will be provided for each class.



On the morning of June 14th we'll begin a new series of sermons through the Gospel of John. This Gospel was written **"that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name"** (20:31). This would be a great time to invite non Christian friends, neighbors, family, or colleagues to consider the words and works of our Lord.

NEW MEMBERS' CLASS FORMING

Having a recent influx of visitors and several long-time attendees to our church, we are currently gauging interest in a new members' class. This class in no way obligates one to membership but is intended to be an introduction to Ortega PCA, our doctrine, worship, history, core values, and the way we hope to carry them out. This class would likely take place during the Sunday School hour at 9:30am. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED!

Financial Report

*numbers reflect "year to date" through 4/30/20

Financial Secretary: Sheryl Inabinette

Treasurer: Mark Miller Jr.

Budgeted Income:

\$53,060

Actual Income:

\$63,075

Budgeted Expenses:

\$53,060

Actual Expenses:

\$51,784

Actual Income vs. Actual

Expenses:

+\$11,291

The budget report is also available in the 2nd Lord's Day bulletin of each month.

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

7 - Peter Cerreta

14 - Peter & Anna Cerreta

26 - Christen Hinson; Nick Miller

27 - Alex & Fran Knauss

28 - Mike & Selena Jones

Nursery Schedule

June 7 - Christen Hinson & Melissa Melton

June 14 - Karen Miller & Haley Morris

June 21 - Aubrie Miller & Annette Steele

June 28 - Nancy Butler & ???

Get Connected:

Ortega PCA sends out a weekly update with announcements, the upcoming Lord's Day's bulletin, etc. If you would like to be added to the *Ortega Weekly* email list, please sign-up on the "Contact Us" page of our website or email the church office at office@ortegapres.org

Current Sunday School Offerings:

Adult Class - Systematic Theology, Church History, Bible, and Practical studies rotating quarterly.

Middle & High School Students - *The Holiness of God* beginning June 14th.

Elementary & Preschool - *Studying God's Word* from Great Commission Publications