



HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sat, Dec 24 @ 2p, 4p, & 6p – At the Loop

Gather on Christmas Eve as we prepare our hearts for Christ's birth with worship through song and a message from Pastor Gregg. Choose from 3 identical candlelight services. Childcare is not available, but the Thru the Roof ministry will care for special needs children and adults during the 2p service. Contact Denise Briley at thejoylady@msn.com or 713.816.6059 to register.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sun, Dec 25 @ 10:30a – At the Loop, 11a – Downtown

Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Celebrate the birth of our Savior Christmas morning with special services At the Loop with Pastor Gregg and Downtown with Lee Hsia. Life Bible Studies will not meet that day. Childcare available through age 2 (At the Loop only).

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Sun, Jan 1 @ 10:30a – At the Loop, 11a – Downtown

Begin the new year by gathering for worship At the Loop with Jerrell Altic or Downtown with Lee Hsia! Life Bible Studies will not meet that day. Childcare is available through age 2 (At the Loop only).



HoustonsFirst.org/ChristmasSchedule

713.681.8000

TIMES, LOCATIONS & CONNECTIONS

SUNDAYS AT THE LOOP

Worship 9:30a - 11a - 5:30p
Life Bible Study 8a - 9:30a - 10:45a - 4:15p - 6:45p
Kids' Worship 9:30a - 11a - 5:30p

SUNDAYS DOWNTOWN

Worship 11a
Life Bible Study 9:30a



YEAR-END GIVING

The church business office will be open until 4:30p on Sat, Dec 31, 2011, to receive contributions that will qualify as a 2011 donation. Any donations received via mail will be treated as a 2011 donation if the postmark date on the envelope is before Jan 1, 2012. In addition, any donations made via the church's website at HoustonsFirst.org before midnight on Dec 31, 2011, will qualify as a 2011 donation.

Tithes and offerings towards the Great Commission Budget, the World Mission Offering, Local Missions and the *Be A Part Of The Story* capital campaign all qualify as charitable contributions and are tax deductible. Please contact Kerry Hunter at 713.957.5806 or at Kerry.Hunter@HoustonsFirst.org should you desire additional information.

Gifts of Stock

The gifting of stock to the church is a "win-win" situation for both the donor and the church. Since the church is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the gift will qualify as a charitable contribution and is tax deductible. This is a very simple and easy process that can be coordinated through the Financial Services office of the church. On all tax questions, it is advisable to consult with your tax advisor or CPA. If you donate a gift of stock, or desire additional information, please contact Amber Willet at 713.957.5807 or at Amber.Willet@HoustonsFirst.org.

FIRST THOUGHT

WITH PASTOR GREGG



DEC
18
2011

Jesus Christ, the baby born in the manger, became the man risen from the grave—all on our behalf. No greater story can be told or song can be sung. The kindness of God sent His only Son to live the life we could never live and die the death we should have died. The kindness of God sent One Child to save us all. As we enter the week before Christmas Day, remember that it is all because of that One Child who came centuries ago but who is here today to offer you forgiveness, salvation and friendship.

In Him,

Pastor Gregg

COMING

CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Gather with Houston's First for special worship services on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. See the back of this guide for details.



HoustonsFirst.org/ChristmasSchedule

713.681.8000

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CONNECT WITH US





NEWS + UPDATES



Houston's First Baptist Church is a relevant, biblical community where we **gather our hearts**, **grow our souls** and **give our lives** as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission.



TWEET OF THE WEEK: "The Father's business is not what we do...the Father's business is who we are." @GreggMatte was bringing some truth on Sunday. - @philipmurtaugh



LIFE BIBLE STUDIES

Visit the Welcome Center for help finding a Life Bible Study, or visit HoustonsFirst.org/BibleStudies. Here are some to consider:

- **Morning Star** @ 8:20a, Oasis Rm, adults 67+
- **The Difference** @ 9:30a, Garden Rm, adults 50-62
- **The Junction** @ 10:45a, Rm 505, couples married 3-12 years
- **Mosaic** @ 6:45p, Garden Rm, single adults 21-26

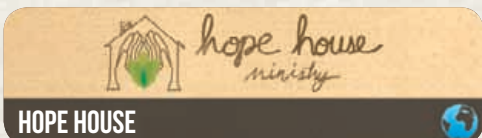


FITNESS EXPO

Sun, Jan 8 @ Noon-3p – Fitness & Recreation Center

See what the Fitness & Recreation Ministry has to offer at this free expo for the whole church family! Preview cardio classes, win some great door prizes, plus free food for the first 300 people. Bring your workout clothes!

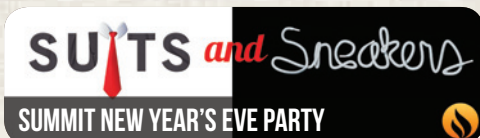
- HoustonsFirst.org/Recreation
- Debbie.Brown@HoustonsFirst.org



HOPE HOUSE

The Hope House opens in January, providing temporary housing for patients undergoing medical treatment in Houston. Help furnish the home with a gift from our registry! Stop by Corner Books or go online to learn more.

- HoustonsFirst.org/HopeHouse
- Peggy.Jones@HoustonsFirst.org



SUMMIT NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Sat, Dec 31 @ 8p-1a – Lucky Strike Lanes, Downtown

Young single adults are invited to ring in the New Year with music, bowling, karaoke, food, games, and more! Cost is \$44 thru Dec 30; and \$49 at the door. Purchase tickets online.

- SummitYoungSingles.org
- Ryan.McPhetridge@HoustonsFirst.org

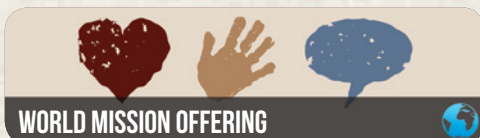


FOUNDATIONS OF THE FAITH

Every Sun, Jan 8-29

Each January, our Adult Life Bible Studies focus on a subject that is foundational to our faith. Our focus this January will be on prayer. Visit us online or in the Welcome Center to find a Life Bible Study that's right for you!

- HoustonsFirst.org/FoundationsOfTheFaith
- Jeanene.Andrus@HoustonsFirst.org



WORLD MISSION OFFERING

Now – Jan 2012

Support missionaries who are sharing the Gospel in Texas, across the USA and around the world! Our church's goal is to raise \$500,000. Use a WMO envelope and place it in the offering plate, or make your donation online.

- HoustonsFirst.org/WorldMissionOffering
- Rochelle.Tucker@HoustonsFirst.org

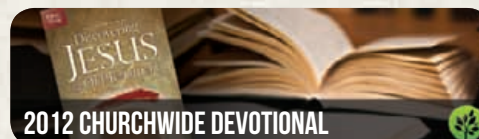


FIRST PLACE 4 HEALTH ORIENTATIONS

Thu, Jan 5 @ 6:30p & Sun, Jan 8 @ 4p – At the Loop

Attend one of these orientations and see how First Place 4 Health can help you discover a new way to healthy living! Attendance is required for new members to join a class.

- FirstPlace4Health.com
- Lisa.Cramer@FP4H.com



2012 CHURCHWIDE DEVOTIONAL

Pastor Gregg has chosen *The One Year Book of Discovering Jesus in the Old Testament* as the 2012 churchwide devotional. Copies are available in Corner Books for \$14.99. Pick up a copy today—just in time for Christmas!

- HoustonsFirst.org/CornerBooks
- 713.957.5822



SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIPS

March 10-17, 2012

Spend your Spring Break at exciting locations while sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ! Locations include Costa Rica, East Asia, Haiti and France. Go online to register and learn about more trips happening throughout 2012.

- HoustonsFirst.org/Missions
- Rochelle.Tucker@HoustonsFirst.org

COMING UP

JAN 04 **HUB Family Night**
6:30-8:30p – Fellowship Ctr
HoustonsFirst.org/Students

JAN 06 **Parents' Night Out**
6-10p – At the Loop
HoustonsFirst.org/ParentsNightOut

JAN 11 **MidLink Spring Semester Begins**
Wednesday Evenings
HoustonsFirst.org/MidLink

JAN 13 **Summit Celebrates**
7p – Oasis Rm
SummitYoungSingles.org

JAN 13-14 **AsWeGo Conference**
For Students 7th-12th Grade
HoustonsFirst.org/HUBMissions

JAN 27 **Midnight Madness**
Life Bible Study Leadership Training
HoustonsFirst.org/MidnightMadness

FEB 10 **Date Night Houston with Tim Hawkins**
7p – Worship Ctr
HoustonsFirst.org/DateNightHouston

FEB 24 **Girls' Night Out with Abby Rike**
6:30-9p – Fellowship Ctr
HoustonsFirst.org/Women

FOUNDATION OF prayer

Remember to pray for the thousands of names written on the foundations of the Worship Center and children's building.

Need more info? Call 713.681.8000 to get in touch with us. Connect with us online anytime at HoustonsFirst.org or follow us on [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [YouTube](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Google+](#)

CREATING A WORSHIPFUL ENVIRONMENT. Worship requires our full attention. We ask that you: >> silence cell phones >> use the restroom before the service (take your children, too!) >> remain seated once our time of Bible study begins. At the end of the worship service, people will be invited to accept Christ or join the church. Please remain in the service during this time. Pastor Gregg and other worshipers will appreciate your thoughtfulness.