

welcome

TO HOUSTON'S FIRST!

I'm glad you're here today! Houston's First Baptist Church is the home of difference-makers — people who want to impact the world with the love and truth of Jesus Christ. Not content to simply watch, they use the gifts God has given them to volunteer at their campuses, reach out to their neighbors, serve on short-term mission trips, and everything in between. So, if you are ready to make a difference, you're in good company here.

No matter what campus you're attending, if you have any questions, please ask! Our Guest Experience Team and staff members are ready to help. At the end of the worship service, come forward when invited or visit the Connection Center if you want to know more about joining the church, the Christian faith, or what it means to follow Jesus.

Again, thank you for visiting and welcome to Houston's First — a relevant biblical community.

In Him,

Pastor Gregg

Pastor Gregg Matte



GreggMatte @GreggMatte @PastorGregg

OUR SIGNATURE STATEMENT

Houston's First Baptist Church is a relevant biblical community where people gather their hearts, grow their souls and give their lives as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

RELEVANT

Having the passion, desire and ability to build necessary bridges to move people from culture to Christ.

BIBLICAL

Fully embracing the beliefs and values revealed in the Bible as true, eternal and life-changing.

COMMUNITY

Providing a place to be authentic, involved, impacted and impactful.

JOINING HOUSTON'S FIRST

Membership at Houston's First is open to anyone who has placed their faith in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of their sins and has been baptized by immersion at our church or by a body of believers of like faith and practice. That's it — no test, no contracts, no classes, and no payments!

If you have not placed your faith in Jesus and been baptized by immersion, we will assist you with these spiritual decisions. So, at the end of the worship service, come forward to speak with a minister or volunteer, or make your way to the Connection Center at your campus. They will walk you through the process of making Houston's First your church!

LIFE BIBLE STUDIES

Life Bible Studies are the primary method for connecting with others in smaller settings and growing together at Houston's First. Visit HoustonsFirst.org to explore the many options, or ask a Guest Experience Team member at your campus for assistance in finding one that's right for you.

WHERE YOU'LL FIND US

Houston's First Baptist Church has numerous locations around town. But with members from all across the greater Houston area living out their faith and making a difference in their homes, schools and offices, the church's ministry extends far beyond the addresses listed below!



The Loop & Español Campuses



Sienna Campus



Faith Center-Timbergrove-Heights



Cypress Campus



Faith Center-Harwin



Food Pantry & Clothes Closet



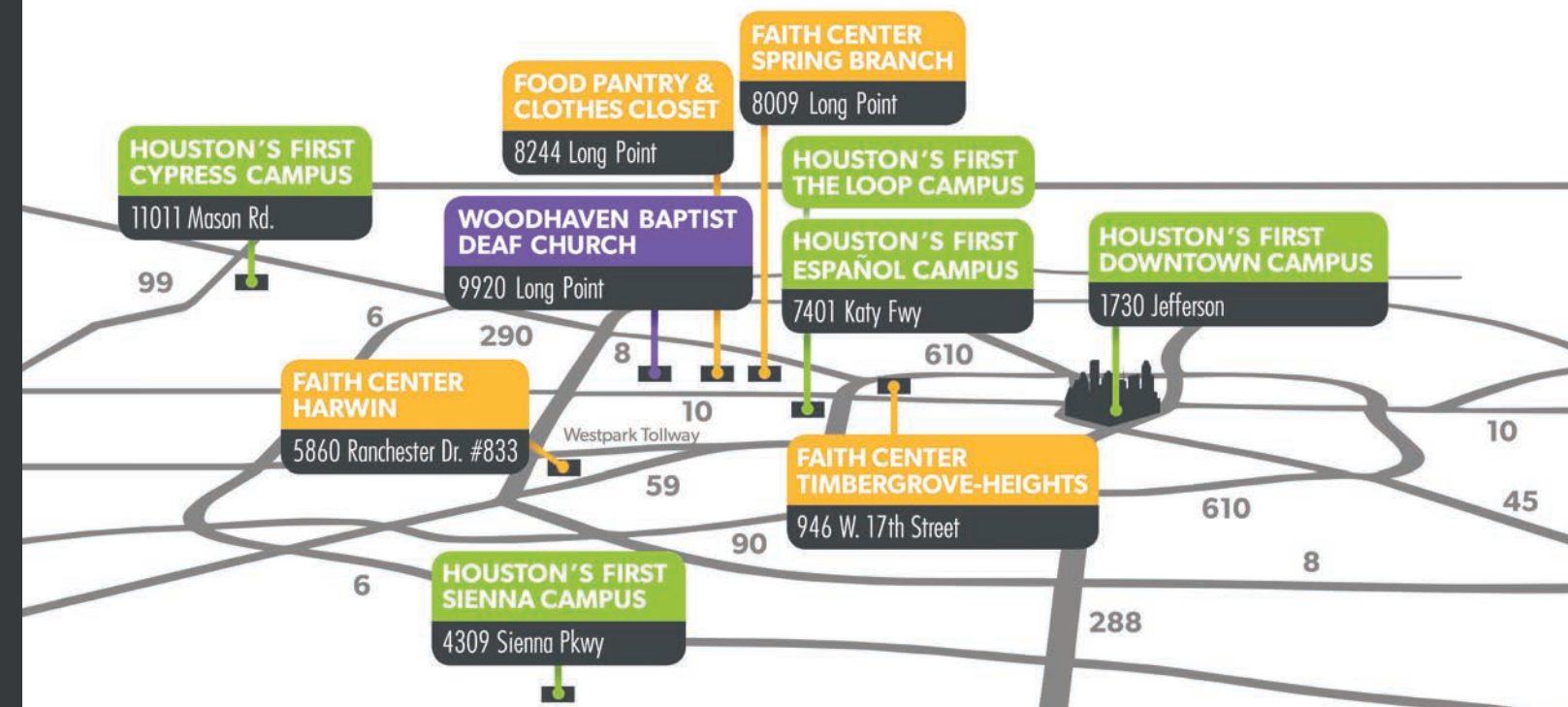
Downtown Campus



Faith Center-Spring Branch



Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church



For more information about Houston's First, call 713.681.8000 or visit HoustonsFirst.org.



SUNDAYS AT HOUSTON'S FIRST

The Loop Campus

Worship 9:15a • 11a • 5p
Life Bible Studies 8a • 9:15a • 10:45a • 6:30p

Cypress Campus

Worship 9:30a • 11a
Life Bible Studies 8a • 9:30a • 11a

Downtown Campus

Worship 11a
Life Bible Studies 9:30a

Español Campus

Worship 5p
Life Bible Studies 6:30p

Sienna Campus

Worship 9:30a • 11a
Life Bible Studies 9:30a • 11a

welcome.

A MONTHLY SNAPSHOT • HOUSTON'S FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH • PASTOR GREGG MATTE

OCT
2017

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HOUSTON'S FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH

KEEPING THE LIGHT ON



For families directly affected by flooding during Hurricane Harvey, the storm required adjustments to their plans and routines. Temporary housing, loaner vehicles, new commutes, cancelled events — people have come to accept a “new normal” while recovery efforts are underway.

Houston's First members Clark and Michelle Reynolds were no exception. Harvey flooded the Reynolds' home with 13 inches of water despite the home being built one foot above the high-water mark they experienced when Tropical Storm Allison flooded their previous home on the same lot in 2001.

Now, they and their three teenagers — Cole, Matthew, and Hannah — are living in a condo while their home is being repaired. But, this temporary “new normal” is not stopping them from continuing a tradition they've been following since the kids were in elementary school.

On October 31, the Reynolds will host something special in their driveway for families in their Bellaire neighborhood. Over the years, they've provided snow cones, cotton candy, flavored popcorn, ice cream floats, and other special treats for kids and adults passing by. But, many residents don't simply pass by. They've come to look forward to the Reynolds' hospitality each year.

“We've been told that ours is one of only a handful of houses where parents will allow their children to go trick-or-treating,” says Clark. “They've come to trust us and to know that we are a safe, fun place to be.”

But, with a house lacking a working kitchen and with many surrounding houses left vacant by neighbors dispersed to temporary housing around town, why even bother with this tradition this year?

“We want to be there because we sense that it will bring our neighboring community together,” says Michelle. “It will be something for them to look forward to — and it will be a light to our neighbors.” In late September, preparations got underway as the Reynolds family and volunteers from American Heritage Girls assembled hundreds of bags with candy and scripture inside.

Immediately following Harvey, Clark says that neighbors began to gather for dinner together at one of the few homes that did not flood. He believes that their simple efforts on Halloween over the years helped to break the ice by providing a place for neighbors to stop and get to know one another.

“People need to do something familiar given all of the change they've been through since Harvey,” Clark notes. “Our small event gives neighbors an opportunity to connect and check up on one another. It helps turn a dark night about ghosts and ghouls into a bright night, instead.”



How will YOU light the night on October 31?

Make a difference on Halloween by being a light in your neighborhood! Ideas include putting out simple games, providing lemonade or hot chocolate, grilling hot dogs, going “reverse trick-or-treating” by handing out treats door-to-door — or whatever you can think of. Just do something to make connections with the neighbors around you!

(1) Join The Team

Sign up at HoustonsFirst.org then begin to pray for your neighbors as well as others who plan to Light The Night.

(2) Make Your Plan

Decide how you'll Light The Night and start getting ready. Houston's First will provide ideas and resources to help!

(3) Light The Night

As you put your plans into action on October 31, ask the Holy Spirit to lead you as you make connections with people.

(4) Take The Next Step

October 31 is just the beginning! Pray for neighbors you meet and be intentional about finding ways to connect with them.

Learn More And Join the Team At HoustonsFirst.org

LOVEFIRST

DISASTER RELIEF: BY THE NUMBERS



\$450,151
given to **242** families



\$1.5 million

projected to be disbursed from LOVEFIRST Disaster Relief Fund to families, non-profits, and churches by December 31



As of Oct 1, **57** out-of-town teams with **692** team members representing **30** states have spent **9,475** hours serving **150+** homes and churches



6,000

people fed the week after the storm at Food Pantries and The Loop



50

crisis-trained chaplains from Billy Graham Evangelistic Association housed at Downtown Campus



2,000+

volunteers mobilized for Home Relief Teams



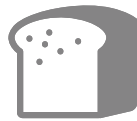
900+

homes officially served by Home Relief Teams (countless more served as teams helped neighboring houses)



75

truckloads of supplies sent out from Cypress Campus



17,000

loaves of bread donated by Martin's Famous Pastry Shoppe in Pennsylvania (bread supplier for Shake Shack)



12

football players from Michigan State University served with the Sienna Campus



32

volunteers from the Español Campus served...



702

families coming for supplies at the Fitness & Recreation Center



As Pastor Gregg says, “When the rain falls, the church rises.” Thank you, Houston's First family, for making a tangible difference in our city and for loving our city well!



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOUSTON'S FIRST?



THE LOOP CANHOPE

Mon, Oct 9 @ 6:45p — The Loop Campus (Reception Rm)
Ministering to families touched by cancer, CanHope invites you to hear guest speaker and Hope House guest Brent French, Music Pastor at Marcus Point Baptist Church. Everyone is invited! An entrée is provided; please bring a salad, vegetable or fruit. RSVP to 713.957.6764 or contact Sherry.Oradot@HoustonsFirst.org.

MILESTONES CLASSES

The second session of MidLink begins Wed, Oct 11, including more than 20 Milestones classes on Wednesday evenings at 6:30p — Learn to Make Disciples, The Meaning of Marriage, Loving Muslims, Racial Reconciliation and The Gospel, The Secret Battle of Ideas, The Family Project, and more. Find class details and the full MidLink schedule at HoustonsFirst.org.

FIRST H.O.P.E. TRAINING

Sat, Oct 14 @ 9a-3p — The Loop Campus (Rm 257)
This free career development training features guest speaker John Yambao. Seating is limited so register early at HoustonsFirst.org. For questions, contact Bob.Stroud@HoustonsFirst.org or 713.554.8821.

GRIEF SHARE: SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

Thu, Oct 19 @ 6:45p — Cypress Campus
Thu, Oct 26 @ 6:45p — The Loop Campus (Reception Rm)
For those dealing with the loss of a loved one, experiencing the holidays can be difficult. If you have experienced the loss of a loved one within the past year, you are invited to this dinner and seminar designed specifically for people who are grieving. RSVP to Janette.Arterburn@HoustonsFirst.org or 713.957.6762 by Mon, Oct 16, for the seminar at Cypress and by Mon, Oct 23, for the one at The Loop.

CYPRESS

LOVE YOU A BRUNCH!

Sat, Oct 21 @ 9a-Noon — Cypress Campus
Cy-HUB girls in 6th-12th grades are invited to spend the morning brunching, crafting, and digging deep into the Bible. From this brunch, The HUB Girls will launch a 2-year plan to read through the Bible together. Breakfast foods and fun will be in full supply! The cost is \$10 per student. CONTACT: Hannah.Stoval@HoustonsFirst.org

THE WORD WITH FRIENDS: VICTIM OR VICTOR

Tuesdays, Nov 7 & 14 @ 9:30-11:10a — Cypress Campus
When life's circumstances become hard, you have the choice to see yourself as a victim or a victor. Women are invited to come look at how to walk in freedom as victors in Christ, not bound in defeat. Nicole Hufty is the facilitator, and childcare is available with registration at HoustonsFirst.org. CONTACT: Teal.Moran@HoustonsFirst.org

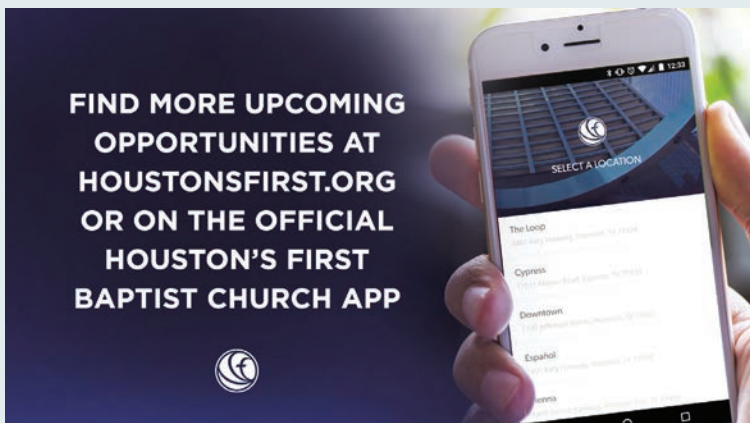
DOWNTOWN

IMAGO DOWNTOWN: INTEREST MEETING

Mon, Oct 9 @ 7-9p — A 2nd Cup (1111 E. 11th St)
Are you an artist or simply just love the arts? We're kicking off the Downtown chapter of the Imago arts ministry, so come to this interest meeting over a cup of coffee (on us!) at A 2nd Cup. No RSVP required! CONTACT: Lee.Hsin@HoustonsFirst.org

FINDING YOUR PLACE IN LIFE & MINISTRY

Every Wed, Oct 11-Nov 1 @ 7-8:30p
Downtown Campus (Rm 217)
Discover how God has uniquely designed you to be a difference-maker, looking at your personality, spiritual gifts, abilities, passions, and life experiences. Following the course, you can meet with a PLACE Coach to help you implement what you learn. Register for \$10 at HoustonsFirst.org. CONTACT: Peter.Lee@HoustonsFirst.org



ESPAÑOL

CONVERSANDO EN INGLÉS

Martes, 10 de octubre, 3-5p
The Loop Campus (Salón 257)
Empezando en octubre, cada martes y jueves, ofreceremos un tiempo para que puedas practicar tu inglés conversando con otros. ¡Esta no será tu clase típica de ESL, si no algo mejor! No hay costo. Invita a algún conocido que se pueda beneficiar de esta oportunidad. CONTACTO: Karina.Bazaldua@HoustonsFirst.org

ILUMINANDO LA NOCHE

Martes, 31 de octubre, 6-8p — Warrior Field
Estamos buscando a voluntarios para esta noche de diversión con nuestra comunidad. ¡No te lo pierdas, se parte de nuestro equipo de planificación! CONTACTO: Douglas.Hernandez@HoustonsFirst.org

SIENNA

TRUNK R TREAT

Sun, Oct 29 @ 5-7p — Sienna Campus
The NextGen Ministry is hosting Trunk-R-Treat, so invite your friends and neighbors for games, a petting zoo, food trucks and more. Don't forget to wear your costumes! To provide your trunk, register at HoustonsFirst.org. CONTACT: Tyler.Scott@HoustonsFirst.org

