

# welcome.

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

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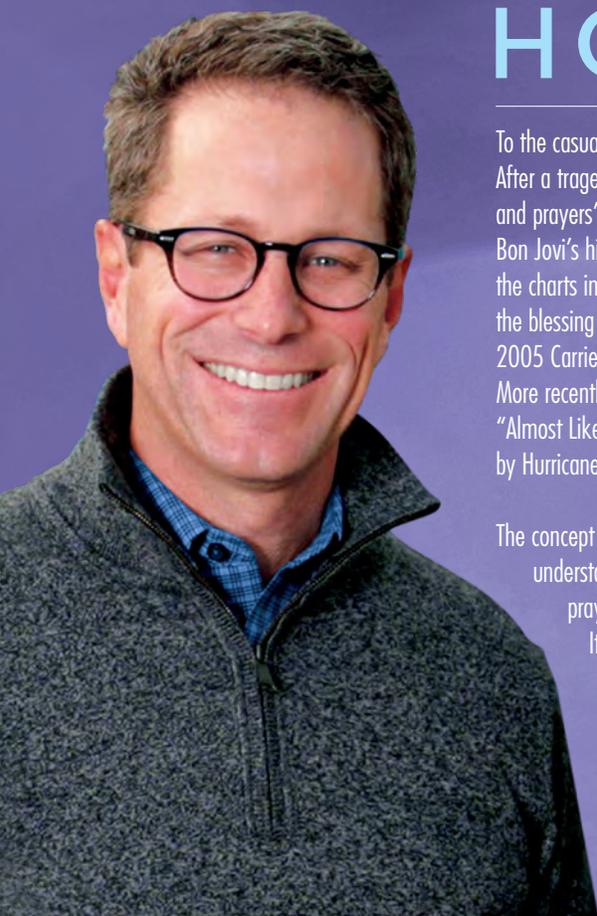
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HOUSTON'S FIRST  
BAPTIST CHURCH

HOUSTONSFIRST.ORG

# Welcome to HOUSTON'S FIRST!



To the casual observer, it could seem that everybody prays. After a tragedy, celebrities will Tweet that their “thoughts and prayers” are with the victims’ families. Rock group Bon Jovi’s hit song “Livin’ on a Prayer” made it to the top of the charts in the ‘80s. Country stars Garth Brooks sang about the blessing of “Unanswered Prayers” in the ‘90s, and in 2005 Carrie Underwood cried out, “Jesus, Take The Wheel.” More recently, Lin-Manuel Miranda produced the single “Almost Like Praying” in 2017 to benefit those impacted by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

The concept of prayer is all around us—but what about an understanding or appreciation of prayer? Simply put, prayer is spiritual communication between us and God. It’s a two-way relationship with us not only talking to God but also listening to Him. Praying requires us to humbly submit to Him, laying down our will as we seek His will for our lives.

In the Bible, there are about 650 prayers across the 66 books, and about 450 recorded answers to prayer. (Maybe that’s where Garth got the idea?) Fasting is mentioned more than 70 times in the Bible, a spiritual act taken by Moses, Esther, Job, David, Paul, and others—including Jesus. These two disciplines go hand-in-hand, both drawing us closer to the Lord and deepening our relationship with Him.

I am excited about the focus on prayer and fasting this month through our InnerChange initiative as we grow our faith by changing our ways. What will the Lord do in your life as you spend more time with Him? What will He do in your family and relationships? In our church? As we develop the disciplines of intentionally seeking Him this month, keep your eyes open for how He moves in you and around you.

In Him,

*Pastor Gregg Matte*

Pastor Gregg Matte

## Be Prayerful.



January follows a holiday season that can often be characterized by indulgence and consumption. We enjoy feasts of favorite dishes and special treats, and gifts are given to and received from friends and family. In the midst of it all, perhaps our heart’s focus shifts more to ourselves and what we want and away from the Lord and what He wants for us.

Fortunately, turning the calendar to a new year provides a symbolic point at which we can reset for the months ahead. Our InnerChange focus in January is on prayer and fasting—disciplines that require us to humble ourselves before the Lord. As we seek Him and draw closer to His heart, we lay down our lives and place His will above our own. Consider incorporating these steps into your life as you cultivate a prayerful heart.

- **Repurposing “Down Time”** — commit to using otherwise unproductive time as a time to pray, such as when you’re commuting to work or waiting in your child’s carpool line at school
- **Daily Prayer Note Cards** — label seven note cards days of the week, write down what to pray for each day, then use those to remind you throughout the week
- **Technology Fast** — put away screens (phones, tablets, TVs, etc.) and read the Bible, pray, or journal instead. Encourage your children to do the same!

**Here’s how our youngest Houston’s First family members can focus on being prayerful:**

- **Preschoolers** — pray over your children (out loud) at bedtime to model a prayerful heart
- **Children** — on a calendar, write in prayer requests each day and pray together at breakfast or dinner
- **Students** — prayer walk your neighborhood (or around your school’s campus)

## The Daniel Fast

Give up “the king’s food” on this partial fast while you seek nourishment from the King of Kings instead.

Find details at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).



Find more prayer and fasting resources — and share your own — at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org)



Text **INNERCHANGE** to 41411 for related updates, resources, and encouragement

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# make it your church

## ORIENTATION



Looking to get connected with a church in 2019? People often have questions before they join a church. Some may even have questions after they join as they seek to know their church better! Whether you've just recently visited or recently joined Houston's First, we invite you to discover

what it means to be a member here at *Make It Your Church* Orientation. Learn about our mission, vision, ministries, and more while you meet staff members and find answers to your questions. Register at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) for an upcoming session at your campus.

**THE LOOP (SUN, FEB 10) • CYPRESS (SUN, FEB 10) • DOWNTOWN (SUN, JAN 27)**  
**ESPAÑOL (SUN, FEB 10) • SIENNA (SUN, FEB 10)**

## MILESTONES

Aside from Life Bible Studies on Sundays, you can "grow your soul" at Houston's First in one of our many Milestones classes offered during the week at each campus. Milestones is a framework for adult discipleship that extends beyond Life Bible Studies to equip people in a particular stage of life, crisis, or in general discipleship. This is accomplished through semester-long courses, one-time classes, and special events.

Visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) or text **MILESTONES** to 41411 to discover what's offered at your campus this semester!

## 2019 MISSION TRIPS

31 TRIPS • 16 NATIONS • 5 CONTINENTS

Where is God calling you to go in 2019? Mission teams are forming—and some trips are filling up—as the Houston's First family prepares to share the Gospel and Jesus' love and truth around the globe this year. Visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) or text **HFBCEMISSIONS** to 41411 to discover where we are going and to take the first step toward joining a team!

- Brazil • Cambodia • Costa Rica • Cuba • Denver
- Dominican Republic • East Asia • Germany
- Guatemala • Houston • India • Kenya
- Malawi • Montana • New York City
- Nicaragua • Norway • Panama City Beach
- Pittsburgh • South Sudan



## MINISTRY IMPACT OF HOUSTON'S FIRST YEAR-TO-DATE • JULY 1, 2018–JAN 6, 2019

### DECISIONS

369 New Church Members  
48 Joined by Baptism

13% of New Members were Baptized

### ATTENDANCE

132,779 in Life Bible Studies  
(5,107 weekly average)  
135,840 in Worship Services  
(4,851 weekly average)  
25,006 on Webcast  
(893 weekly average)

### MISSIONS

22 Mission Trips with  
2,073 Team Members



### GENEROSITY

4,407 Givers to  
Great Commission Fund  
489 First-Time Givers

11% of Givers Gave for First Time

# The Table

A WORSHIP GATHERING FOR WOMEN

**Tuesdays, Jan 29–Mar 5 @ 6:30–8p — The Loop Campus (Chapel)**

What is the Lord doing in your life lately? God is with us through all the seasons of our lives but sometimes we have difficulty seeing Him in the moments of today. Women will gather at The Table this spring to see the “above and beyond” provision (Ephesians 3:20) of God in every moment of our life and learn how to apply it to our lives. Teachers include Kori de Leon, Leigh Kohler, Marsha Taylor, Shannon Owen, Stacey Marshall, and Amy Schreve.

**CONTACT: [Heather.Connolly@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Heather.Connolly@HoustonsFirst.org)**

SAVE THE DATE!

## NIGHT to Shine

SPONSORED BY THE **TIM TEBOW** FOUNDATION™

**FRI, FEB 8 @ 6–9P — THE LOOP CAMPUS**

Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God’s love, for people with special needs ages 14 and older. That night, churches around the world partner with the Tim Tebow Foundation to host Night to Shine events and Houston’s First is excited to be one of them! We have a waitlist for guests to attend, but we still have room for volunteers to serve as Buddies or on Support Teams.

Visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) to sign up to serve and complete the required forms, with training scheduled for Sat, Jan 19 and a make-up session on Sat, Feb 2.

**CONTACT: [Belen.Fernandez@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Belen.Fernandez@HoustonsFirst.org)**

# save the date

It’s only January, but here are some dates you’ll want to have on your calendar for 2019!

- **World Mission Offering** | Sun, Feb 24 — All Campuses
- **Easter Sunday** | Sun, Apr 21 — All Campuses
- **Camp Intersect** | June 9–12 — Carolina Creek Christian Camp
- **Vacation Bible School** | June 24–27 — The Loop Campus
- **Houston 1:8** | July 8–11 — Locations around Houston
- **Rush Week** | July 19–25 — Panama City Beach, FL
- **Churchwide Men’s Retreat** | Oct 4–5 — Pineywoods Camp
- **Celebration** | Dec 12–15 — The Loop Campus



## DECEMBER MOMENTS



Thousands of people experience *Celebration* at The Loop Campus



Cypress Campus serves families during Christmas at The Mansions



Downtown Campus gathers for their annual Christmas party



Sienna Campus hosts toy drive for Second Mile Mission Center



Summit Young Singles welcome 2019 on New Year's Eve



# EVERYDAY HEROES

MIDNIGHT MADNESS 2019

## Fri, Jan 25 @ 5:30p–Midnight The Loop Campus

Our Life Bible Study leaders are everyday heroes! At Midnight Madness, we equip and encourage them for the important roles they play. Current Life Bible Study leaders from every age group will gather for this annual event for training, vision, giveaways, fun — and food! Interested in being a Life Bible Study leader? You're invited, too! Register and learn more at [HoustonFirst.org](http://HoustonFirst.org), or text MIDMAD to 41411.

## ALL CAMPUSES

### THE PORCH

**Tuesdays @ 7:30–9p — The Loop Campus**

People in their 20s and 30s from throughout Houston gather on Tuesday evenings at The Loop Campus for live worship, great teaching, and fellowship. Come and see what The Porch is all about as we begin the new year on Tue, Jan 22!

CONTACT: [Joshua.Bagby@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:Joshua.Bagby@HoustonFirst.org)

### HIGHPOINT BIBLE STUDY

**Wednesdays @ 11:30a–12:40p  
1010 Lamar (Suite 1250)**

This weekly downtown Bible study is open to everyone! Speakers this month include are Executive Pastor Dr. David Self (Jan 9), Adults Minister Tim Young from The Loop (Jan 16), and Minister of Missionary Care & Projects Skyler Womack (Jan 23, 30, Feb 6). Lunch is available for purchase for \$5, or feel free to bring yours with you.

CONTACT: [Diane.Bagby@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:Diane.Bagby@HoustonFirst.org)

### IMPACT BARN DANCE

**Sat, Feb 2 @ 6–10:30p — Liedertafel Hall, Sealy, TX**

Single adults (late 30s, 40s, and 50s) — saddle up, put on your boots, and mosey on over for a night of square dancing and two-stepping to live music by the band Peterbilt. Dance lessons and games will begin at 6p. Hinze's BBQ dinner is served from 6:30–8:30p, and the dance starts at 7p. Register soon at [HoustonFirst.org](http://HoustonFirst.org)!

CONTACT: [Chris.Heitman@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:Chris.Heitman@HoustonFirst.org)

### SUPERSTART PRETEEN WEEKEND

**Feb 8–9 — The Loop Campus**

Our 4th and 5th graders will encounter Christ through worship, interactive teaching, and small groups—all of which are designed with their unique needs and maturity in mind. The weekend starts at 6p on Friday and ends at 3p on Saturday, with students spending the night at The Loop Campus (Level 3). Register at [HoustonFirst.org](http://HoustonFirst.org)!

CONTACT: [Mike.Harvey@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:Mike.Harvey@HoustonFirst.org)

### INTERSECTIONS: A MENTORING CONFERENCE

**Mar 1–2 — The Loop Campus**

Hosted by several ministries of Houston's First, this citywide event consists of inspiring keynote presentations, informative TED-style talks, and sound biblical content to teach, motivate, and train potential mentors. The goal is to raise awareness and cast vision for mentoring between our generations and to follow-up with everyone interested in mentoring. The conference meets on Fri @ 7–9p and Sat @ 9a–2p. Find details and register at [HoustonFirst.org](http://HoustonFirst.org).

CONTACT: [Julianne.Kho@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:Julianne.Kho@HoustonFirst.org)

## THE LOOP CAMPUS

### SPRING PREVIEW NIGHT

**Wed, Jan 16 @ 5:45–8p — The Loop Campus**

Enjoy a free concert with Shane & Shane at 6:45p in the Worship Center after you visit the Milestones Expo from 5:45–6:30p in the Main Foyer. At the Expo, discover what Milestones classes are offered this semester on Wednesday nights during MidLink and other days of the week. Come earlier for dinner in the Café from 4:45–6:15p!

CONTACT: [Jenny.Sheets@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:Jenny.Sheets@HoustonFirst.org)

### FITNESS EXPO

**Sun, Jan 27 @ 12:15–2p**

**The Loop Campus (Fitness & Rec Ctr)**

Come discover all that the Fitness & Recreation Center has to offer at this free event featuring fitness class demos, assessments and screenings, a kids' program for K–5th grade, health and wellness participants from the community, and more. A complimentary healthy lunch is available for the first 500 attendees! Learn more at [HoustonFirst.org](http://HoustonFirst.org), or text HFBCFITNESS to 41411.

CONTACT: [Debbie.Brown@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:Debbie.Brown@HoustonFirst.org)

### If: HFBC

**Feb 8–9 — The Loop Campus (Rm 253/254)**

"What could happen IF women all over the world gathered together in humility and asked God to move?" We invite women to gather for this livestream event, learning from Proverbs what it means to rely on the wisdom of God and not on our own understanding. We'll meet Fri @ 6–9p and Sat @ 9a–1p. Register for \$10 at [HoustonFirst.org](http://HoustonFirst.org).

CONTACT: [Heather.Connolly@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:Heather.Connolly@HoustonFirst.org)

### HABITS OF A HEALTHY MARRIAGE

**Feb 15–16 — The Loop Campus (Chapel)**

Married Young Adults are invited to gather for a simulcast with best-selling author and pastor Paul David Tripp. We will view his marriage conference titled Habits of a Healthy Marriage. The event takes place Fri @ 6–9p and Sat @ 9a–Noon. Register for \$10 per couple at [HoustonFirst.org](http://HoustonFirst.org).

CONTACT: [Kristin.Hawkinson@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:Kristin.Hawkinson@HoustonFirst.org)

## CYPRESS CAMPUS

### MIDLINK

**Wednesdays beginning Jan 16 @ 6:30–8p**

**Cypress Campus**

MidLink is what we call Wednesday nights at the Cypress Campus! Opportunities for kids include Mission Friends (birth–K), BLAST (1st–5th grade) & CyHUB Metro (6th–12th grade), while adults can choose from several Milestones classes—Apologetics 101; *Birds & The Bees: A Conversation about God, Sex and Sexuality*; *Boundaries in Marriage*; Parenting; Disciplines of a Godly Man (men); *Jonah: Navigating a Life Interrupted* (women); and Healing from Sexual Abuse (women). Visit [HoustonFirst.org](http://HoustonFirst.org) for more information.

CONTACT: [Debbie.Spence@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:Debbie.Spence@HoustonFirst.org)

### HUB WEEKEND

**Jan 18–20**

HUB Weekend is a time for our Cypress Campus students (6th–12th grades) and their friends to steal away at the start of the spring semester to rest, build community, serve our city, and grow in their relationship with Christ. Visit [HoustonFirst.org](http://HoustonFirst.org) for details and to register your student by Sun, Jan 13!

CONTACT: [Lindsay.Crisanti@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:Lindsay.Crisanti@HoustonFirst.org)

### MOMS OF THE HEART

**Thu, Feb 7 @ 7–9p — Cypress Campus (Connection Ctr)**

Moms of the Heart (MOTH) is a monthly gathering for foster and adoptive moms seeking to become equipped, empowered, and encouraged in their unique parenting journey. Gather with other moms for teaching, fellowship, and connection. We'll meet again on Mar 7 and May 2. MOTH is provided by Legacy 685, the adoption, foster, and orphan care ministry at Houston's First.

CONTACT: [Legacy685@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:Legacy685@HoustonFirst.org)

## DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: ENEMIES OF THE HEART

**Every other Monday, Jan 14–Mar 4 @ 6:30–8p  
Downtown Campus (Rm 221)**

Do you know the enemies of your heart? The difficult circumstances you are dealing with today are likely being fed by forces that compel you to act in undesirable ways. We will explore the topics of guilt, anger, greed, and jealousy covered in *Enemies of the Heart*. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. Register with Peter Lee, and purchase the book through Amazon or other retailers.

CONTACT: [Peter.Lee@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:Peter.Lee@HoustonFirst.org)

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: EMBRACING GOD'S PLAN

**Wednesdays, Feb 6–27 @ 7–8:30p  
Downtown Campus (Rm 216)**

During this 4-week study, women will examine the dialogue between the prophet Habakkuk and God, and his questions about God's plans for Israel. We will see God's response to Habakkuk, how he lives up to the meaning of his name ("embrace"), embraces God's plan for Israel, and worships God though the plans for Israel do not look promising.

Register at [HoustonFirst.org](http://HoustonFirst.org).

CONTACT: [Erin.Krafft@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:Erin.Krafft@HoustonFirst.org)

## ESPAÑOL CAMPUS

### PROFUNDIZANDO EL DISCIPULADO

**Wed, Jan 23–May 1 @ 7–8p  
The Loop Campus (Harbor Rm)**

Join us every Wednesday night to grow in our salvation and live an effective life in Jesus Christ. This semester, David Oliveras will lead us through a study of the life of Jesus through the Gospels.

No registration is required!

CONTACT: [Douglas.Hernandez@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:Douglas.Hernandez@HoustonFirst.org)

## SIENNA CAMPUS

### MIDLINK

The Sienna Campus is gearing up for another semester of MidLink on Wednesday nights! MidLink will include activities for all ages, including Milestones classes for adults. Here's what's happening this month leading up to the start of Session 1:

- Wed, Jan 16 @ 5:30p — Catch a ride on our charter bus to The Loop Campus for the Shane and Shane concert. Email Kelli Boylan to reserve your spot.
- Wed, Jan 23 @ 6:30p — Attend our Sienna MidLink Roadmap to find out what is happening at the Sienna Campus.
- Wed, Jan 30 @ 6:30p — MidLink Session 1 begins at the Sienna Campus!

CONTACT: [Kelli.Boylan@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:Kelli.Boylan@HoustonFirst.org)

Visit [HoustonFirst.org](http://HoustonFirst.org) or the *Houston's First Baptist Church* app for details about these and other upcoming opportunities!



**Text HFBCAPP  
to 41411**

for links to download the  
Houston's First Baptist Church  
app for iOS or Android




## 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 CAMPUS 7401 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77024



Gregg Matte, Pastor

[f](#) HoustonsFirst [t](#) @HoustonsFirst [i](#) @HoustonsFirst

### CYPRESS CAMPUS 11011 Mason Rd, Cypress, TX 77433 (Next to Bridgeland High School)



Jason Swiggart, Campus Pastor

[f](#) HoustonsFirstCypress [t](#) @HFBCcypress [i](#) @HFBCcypress

### DOWNTOWN CAMPUS 1730 Jefferson, Houston, TX 77003



Lee Hsia, Campus Pastor

[f](#) HFBCDowntown [t](#) @HFBCDowntown [i](#) @HFBCDowntown

### ESPAÑOL CAMPUS 7401 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77024



Juan Alaniz, Campus Pastor

[f](#) HoustonsFirstEspañol [t](#) @HFBCEspañol [i](#) @HFBCEspañol

### SIENNA CAMPUS 4309 Sienna Parkway, Missouri City, TX 77459



Malcolm Marshall, Campus Pastor

[f](#) HoustonsFirstSienna [t](#) @HFBCSienna [i](#) @HFBCSienna

### 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. If you have not already done so, we can assist you with these decisions. 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](http://HoustonsFirst.org) or text [LIFEBIBLESTUDY](tel:7136818000) to 41411 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.

For more information about Houston's First, call 713.681.8000 or visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://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 9:15a

Life Bible Studies 10:45a

#### Sienna Campus

Worship 9:30a • 11a

Life Bible Studies 9:30a • 11a