

welcome.

MAR 2019

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

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*make plans for
summer fun!*

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HOUSTON'S FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH

HOUSTONSFIRST.ORG

WELCOME TO HOUSTON'S FIRST



March is often said to come in like a lion and out like a lamb—beginning during the final days of winter and ending as spring begins to bloom. Since it's based on a textbook weather pattern, the saying may not always hold true for Houston and our warm, humid climate. Even so, we can still relate to the changes that this third month of the year brings us.

Our iconic bluebonnets and azaleas will bloom, cars will turn yellow with pollen, and students and teachers will anxiously await Spring Break. Brackets will be completed with our favorite college basketball teams, and we'll look forward with anticipation as the Houston Astros return to the diamond. At Houston's First, we'll send mission trips to New York City, Denver, and Costa Rica. New Milestones classes will start as the semester resumes after Spring Break.

What does March look like for you? It can be a symbolic time to start something new—to “spring forward” with your goals or dreams. Maybe you want to spend time alone with God more frequently. Perhaps there's a relationship that needs tending to. Could there be a struggle you've dealt with on your own for too long? Reach out to somebody who can help

you take the next right step. No matter how fierce or gentle March comes and goes or the challenges we're facing in life, we know the true Lion and Lamb—Jesus Christ. As the Leeland song says,

*Our God is the Lion, the Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power and fighting our battles
Every knee will bow before Him
Our God is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world, His blood breaks the chains
Every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb
Every knee will bow before Him*

I invite you to connect with a Life Bible Study where you can learn more about Jesus and deepen your relationship with Him and others here at Houston's First. Consider it one more way you can “spring forward” in your faith in this season of new beginnings!

In Him,

Pastor Gregg

Pastor Gregg Matte

Be Selfless.



The word “selfie” was added to the Oxford English Dictionary in 2013. But long before we were able to turn the camera on ourselves to take a pic and share it with the world, humans have wrestled with the tendency to focus on our own needs and interests at the expense of others. Despite our best intentions, we can all be self-centered at times. When the attention is on us, it is turned away from God.

This month, be intentional about examining your thoughts and actions—large or small—for when you might be putting yourself before others and dimming the light your witness shines on God. When you catch it happening, consider how that moment could've gone differently. How would it have looked if you had truly been selfless? Here are some examples of what common encounters could look like when approached with a selfless heart:

- **Behind the wheel** — In a city often known for aggressive drivers, go ahead and let the other car into your lane. You'll still get to your destination!
- **At the office** — When a co-worker needs to use the copier at the same time you do, step aside and volunteer to finish your task later.
- **Shopping for groceries** — If your cart is overflowing and the shopper behind you has a handful of items, offer to let them check-out before you.

Here's how our youngest Houston's First family members can learn about being selfless:

- **Preschoolers** — praise any small act of selflessness you see in them as they play with others
- **Children** — tell stories about when God gave you an opportunity to help someone in need
- **Students** — encourage them to find a place to serve where they can give of their time to help others



Find more resources for cultivating a selfless heart—and share your own—at HoustonsFirst.org



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

Sienna Campus' NEW CHAPTER

*“There’s an excitement and renewed energy.”
That’s an observation many have made at
our Sienna Campus as they expanded their
Sunday schedule last month to include a
third hour for worship and Life Bible Studies.*

For years, the campus has championed Neighborhood Life—an initiative that encourages members to be intentional about building relationships with their neighbors. As a result of that and continued growth in the surrounding community, the Sienna Campus experienced increased attendance beyond what their facility could easily accommodate unless something changed.

“When God’s on the move in the midst of His people (which He is), change occurs,” noted Campus Pastor Malcolm Marshall. “When fresh faith accompanies God-inspired change, growth happens. And when growth happens, being uncomfortable is a given—simply because growth always precedes change.”

Pastor Malcolm now speaks live at the 8:30a worship service following the same scripture and outline as Pastor Gregg Matte, and then Pastor Gregg’s message is seen via a link from The Loop Campus at the 9:45a and 11:15a

worship services. An additional Life Bible Study for adults was added to the morning, too.

On the first day of the new schedule, the Sienna Campus saw nearly a 30% increase in overall attendance. Also, there was a 70% increase in the number of people who attended a Life Bible Study in addition to attending a worship service.

“Some of this increased capacity is for people who are not yet in our church, but will soon be,” said Pastor Malcolm. “Another aspect of that capacity is for people who are currently in our church and who need space to give their lives away by volunteering.”

Before the schedule change, around 70% of adults at the Sienna Campus were serving in various ways at the church. That percentage has increased as more people signed up to volunteer to support the expanded schedule—such as serving with NextGen Ministries or the Guest Experience Team.

Pastor Malcolm is excited about this new chapter and how it will challenge church members going forward. “This tangible outworking of our church’s mission, vision, and strategy requires everyone in our church, including me, to embrace a new perspective about how we can continue to be a relevant biblical community.”



MINISTRY IMPACT OF HOUSTON’S FIRST YEAR-TO-DATE • JULY 1, 2018–FEB 24, 2019

DECISIONS

522 New Church Members
64 Joined by Baptism

12% of New Members
were Baptized

ATTENDANCE

171,249 in Life Bible Studies
(5,189 weekly average)
174,207 in Worship Services
(4,977 weekly average)
31,625 on Webcast
(904 weekly average)

MISSIONS

24 Mission Trips with
2,143 Team Members



GENEROSITY

4,801 Givers to
Great Commission Fund
617 First-Time Givers

12% of Givers Gave
for First Time

Easter

at Houston's First

We look forward to celebrating Easter with our Houston's First family and our guests in April at the following worship services. Full details about Easter Weekend—and our Broken for You services on Thu, Apr 18—will be available in late March, along with tools you can use to invite others to gather with us we celebrate Jesus' resurrection!

THE LOOP CAMPUS

Sat, Apr 20 @ 5p (Band)
Sun, Apr 21 @ 9a & 11a (Choir & Orchestra)
5p (Band)

CYPRESS CAMPUS

Sun, Apr 21 @ 8a, 9:30a & 11a

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

Sun, Apr 21 @ 9a & 11a

ESPAÑOL CAMPUS

Sun, Apr 21 @ 9:30a

SIENNA CAMPUS

Sat, Apr 20 @ 5p
Sun, Apr 21 @ 8a, 9:30a & 11a

SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

Houston's First is sending out 16 mission teams across the USA and around the world this summer. For some trips, the deadline to join is in March or early April! Visit HoustonFirst.org or text [HFBCMISSIONS](tel:71341411) to 41411 for more about these trips, plus our other summer trips to Germany, Montana, and Brazil.

THE LOOP CAMPUS

El Salvador (Living Water)

June 16–22 (deadline: Mar 17)

Odisha, India

June 21–29 (deadline: Mar 24)

Xàtiva, Spain

June 28–July 8 (deadline: Mar 26)

Kenya (Orphan Care)

July 5–16 (deadline: Apr 14)

Middle East (Medical)

July 7–15 (deadline: Apr 14)

Alaska

July 16–23 (deadline: Mar 22)

New York City

July 22–27 (deadline: Apr 1)

CYPRESS CAMPUS

Costa Rica

June 14–21 (deadline: Mar 19)

save the date for summer fun!

It's never too late to plan for summer! Visit HoustonFirst.org for details or talk to the NextGen Ministry staff at your campus about these opportunities.

Family Night at Typhoon Texas
Fri, May 31 – Katy, TX

Pine Cove: Camp in the City

June 3–7 – Sienna Campus

Camp Intersect

June 9–12 – Carolina Creek Christian Camp

Elevate Student Worship Mission Tour

June 14–18 – New Orleans, LA

Sports Quest Soccer Camp

June 17–21 – Cypress Campus

Cypress Campus Middle School Camp

June 17–21 – Highland Lakes Camp

Vacation Bible School

June 24–27 – The Loop Campus

Vacation Bible School

June 24–27 – Cypress Campus

Sienna Campus Preteen Camp

June 27–30 – Highland Lakes Camp

H1:8 Sports Camp

July 8–11 – Cypress Campus

Rush Week

July 19–25 – Panama City Beach, FL

Discover252 – T Bar M Day Camp

July 29–Aug 2 – Cypress Campus

FEBRUARY MOMENTS



Over 420 volunteers host 150 special needs friends and 200 parents at Night To Shine



Downtown Campus women enjoy a Bible study about embracing God's plan



People learn about our church at *Make It Your Church Orientation* at the Cypress Campus



Women gather around The Table at The Loop Campus on Tuesday nights



Couples from the Español Campus sharpen their marriage at *Platiquemos*



Single adults stop by the Wailing Wall on the Temple Mount on their tour of Israel

IMPACT
MINISTRIES

SPRING RETREAT

LIVE THE LIFE GOD INTENDED — NO EXCUSES

Mar 22–24 — Pineywoods Conference Center

"Live the Life God Intended — No Excuses" — that's what singles in their late 30s, 40s, and 50s will explore as they get away for a relaxing weekend with teaching by Ken Brumley, music by The James Huber Band, and more activities than we can list here. Register at HoustonFirst.org at the Early Bird rate of \$84 through Sun, Mar 17, then \$99 after that.

ALL CAMPUSES

HIGHPOINT BIBLE STUDY

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

This weekly downtown Bible study is open to everyone! Speaking this month is Executive Pastor Dr. David Self with a series on overcoming discouragement. Lunch is available for purchase for \$5, or feel free to bring yours with you.

CONTACT: Diane.Bagby@HoustonFirst.org

CANHOPE

Mon, Mar 11 @ 6–8p — The Loop Campus (Reception Rm)

Ministering to families touched by cancer, CanHope gathers on the second Monday of each month for dinner and prayer. This month's speaker is Krista Blessing, a Missionary from Ukraine. Bring a salad, vegetable, or fruit to share and we'll provide the entree. Come and enjoy a time of testimony, prayer and fellowship. Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP to 713.957.6764.

CONTACT: Sherry.Oradat@HoustonFirst.org

EASY ISRAEL INTEREST MEETING

Tue, Mar 19 @ 7–8:30p

The Loop Campus (Connection Ctr)

Explore the Holy Land on the Easy Israel tour on Oct 4–13, 2019—a trip designed to go at a slower pace and ideal for those with limited mobility. At this interest meeting, learn about this trip to the Sea of Galilee region, Dead Sea region, Jerusalem, and more. Our tour hosts will be Houston's First members Peggy Bain and Drew Walters, and Adam Mason—our Minister of Counseling Services. The interest meeting is not required to go on the trip, but you're encouraged to come learn about this life changing tour!

CONTACT: Drew.Walters@drew.walters@me.com

MEN: SERVE

Sat, Mar 30 @ 8a–1p — The Loop & Cypress Campuses

Several times a year, men come together on a Saturday to serve the widows of our church family. They go out in teams to do yardwork, make various household repairs, do vehicle maintenance, and other helpful tasks. The widows look forward to these Men: Serve days—and so do the men, too! Men will meet at The Loop and Cypress Campuses that morning. Guys—sign up by Fri, Mar 22, at HoustonFirst.org.

CONTACT: Julianne.Kho@HoustonFirst.org

LEGACY 685 MOMS OF THE HEART RETREAT

Apr 5–6 — Hunt Retreat

Moms of the Heart hosts a retreat for adoptive and foster moms every other year to provide encouragement and connection. The theme this year is Breathe as we aim to replenish and restore life, giving moms the courage and strength to move forward in leading their children and families to places of deep healing connections. The retreat starts on Friday at 6p and ends on Saturday at 8p, with an option to stay Saturday night for moms who would like one extra night to recharge before rejoining her family. Find details and registration at HoustonFirst.org.

CONTACT: Lori.Tapley@HoustonFirst.org

THE LOOP CAMPUS

MIDLINK BONUS NIGHT

Wed, Mar 6 @ 6:30–8p — The Loop Campus (Chapel)

Session 1 of MidLink (Wednesday night programming) wraps up on Feb 27, and Session 2 begins Mar 20 after Spring Break. On this Bonus Night, geologist Dr. Tim Clarey will look at "The Truth about the Genesis Flood" (6:30–8p) and show how sedimentary evidence confirms a global flood and oil industry data that match the biblical narrative. In his second presentation (8:30–10p), he'll look at "Do Dinosaurs Support Evolutionary Theory?" Come early for MidLink Cafe (4:45–6:15p). Learn more at HoustonFirst.org.

CONTACT: Julianne.Kho@HoustonFirst.org

EASTER WORSHIP CHOIR

Wednesdays, Mar 6–Apr 17 @ 7p

The Loop Campus (Rehearsal Hall)

Ever thought about singing in the choir but aren't sure if you can commit long-term? This Easter at The Loop Campus, we want a MASSIVE choir and we invite you to join in—with no auditions required! We'll start learning the music on Wed, Mar 6, for six weeks (not including Mar 13). The music will be easy and fun to learn and you'll have a great time. Don't know anyone in the choir? Bring a friend with you!

Get those vocal cords ready and we'll see you Wed, Mar 6!

CONTACT: Eric.Belvin@HoustonFirst.org

CYPRESS CAMPUS

THE BRIDGE: WOMEN'S NIGHT OF WORSHIP

Thu, Mar 28 @ 6:30–8:30p — Cypress Campus

Women—we can be prompted, as Christians, in many ways by the Holy Spirit to serve the Lord. It may have been a life-changing conversation, a slow building of conviction, or a lightning bolt moment that changed your life. Either way, you have been called to serve our Heavenly Father right where you are. With speaker Laura Seifert, you will be inspired to uncover your current calling and how to take a step in the direction the Lord desires for you to go. Register for free at HoustonFirst.org.

CONTACT: Teal.Moran@HoustonFirst.org

3 DAY MARRIAGE CLINIC

Apr 5–7 — Cypress Campus

Though couples experience different symptoms such as anger, resentment, and withdrawal, the root problem is usually the same: violating one or more of 25 Essential Marriage Skills found in the Bible. At this clinic, these skills are taught in a group environment but all projects are done alone with your partner. Led by Karl Elkins, Th. M, MA, LPC-S, this unique intensive provides the equivalent of 18 weeks of counseling in just three days: Fri, Apr 5 @ 1–7p, Sat, Apr 6 @ 8:30a–2:30p, and Sun, Apr 7 @ 1–7p. Register for \$75 per couple at HoustonFirst.org.

CONTACT: Jasie.Boyd@HoustonFirst.org

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

MILESTONES CLASSES

Wednesdays beginning Mar 20 @ 6:30–8p

Downtown Campus

Visit HoustonFirst.org for more information on the Milestones classes offered beginning Wed, Mar 20. Classes include Finding Your PLACE in Life, XEE Relational Evangelism, and Lead Like Jesus-Leadership Encounter. Childcare is not provided, so plan accordingly!

CONTACT: Peter.Lee@HoustonFirst.org

FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAY

Sun, Mar 31 @ 11a — Downtown Campus

The entire Downtown Campus family will gather for a special service on Family Worship Sunday! We'll also observe Parent Commitment uring the service, too.

CONTACT: Emily.Nguyen@HoustonFirst.org

AGE OF CROWNS DOWNTOWN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Apr 5 & 6 — Downtown Campus

A speaking session by Kori de Leon along with worship through music, group prayer, and discussion will help us shrink our fears and expand our joy by considering the GRAND things coming soon for believers in Jesus Christ—and how to live in view of them NOW! Women will gather on Fri @ 5:30–9p and Sat @ 8a–Noon. Register at HoustonFirst.org.

CONTACT: Erin.Krafft@HoustonFirst.org

COLLEGE SPRING RETREAT

MAR 29–31 — GALVESTON

College students from The Loop, Cypress, and Downtown are heading to the beach for a Spring Retreat! We'll worship together, spend time in God's Word, play group games on the beach, and much more.

The retreat begins Friday at 7p and ends Sunday at Noon.

Register for \$20 per student at HoustonFirst.org.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT HOUSTONFIRST.ORG

ESPAÑOL CAMPUS

MEN'S HANGOUT NIGHT

Wed, Mar 13 @ 6:30–9p — The Loop Campus (Harbor Rm)

Come have a great time with the guys! Bring a friend and we'll provide the food, table games, bowling, and much more.

CONTACT: Douglas.Hernandez@HoustonFirst.org

BAPTISM SUNDAY

Sun, Mar 17 @ 10:45a — The Loop Campus

Let us celebrate the lives of those who are taking this step of obedience! We will gather at the water wall at The Loop Campus after our 9:30a worship service to observe baptisms as people publicly declare their faith in Christ.

CONTACT: Douglas.Hernandez@HoustonFirst.org

SIENNA CAMPUS

MIDLINK SPRING 2019

Wednesdays @ 6:30–8p — Sienna Campus

The Sienna Campus family comes together in the middle of the week with options for all ages. For NextGen children and students, we have Mission Friends (birth–K), KidLink (1st–5th), and Charged (6th–12th). Adults can attend CPR Certification and AED Training (Apr 17 & 24) or Wisdom for Each Day every week. Register for adult classes at HoustonFirst.org.

CONTACT: Kelli.Boylan@HoustonFirst.org

LEGACY 685 PRE-PLACEMENT WORKSHOP

Sat, Mar 23 @ 8:30a–3p — Sienna Campus

This workshop gives couples and individuals a broader, more comprehensive look at what our Legacy 685 Adoption, Foster, & Orphan Care ministry offers and how to get started in foster care and adoption. The workshop enables community with others at the same stage in the journey and serves as a precursor to our Waiting Families Gathering. Come learn from those who have walked this journey so you might be empowered to do the same! Register at HoustonFirst.org.

CONTACT: Legacy685Sienna@HoustonFirst.org



Visit HoustonFirst.org or the Houston's First Baptist Church app for details about these and other upcoming opportunities!

Text HFCAPP 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 family members gather at our campuses, but we spend most of our time at locations throughout our city—living out our lives as lights in our homes, workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and wherever God takes us.

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

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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 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.

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 8:30a • 9:45a • 11:15a

Life Bible Studies 8:30a • 9:45a • 11:15a