

APR 2019

welcome.

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

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Come Celebrate

Easter

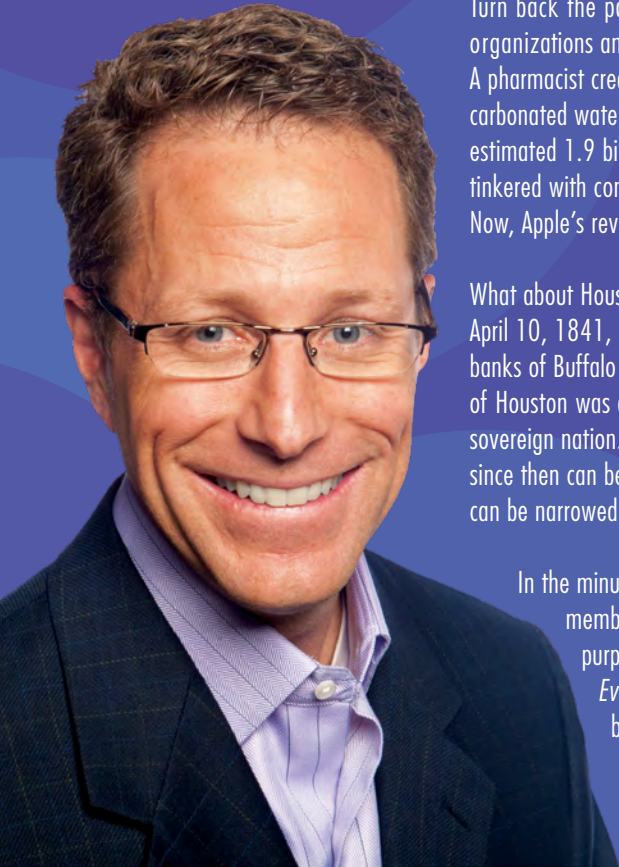
at Houston's First



HOUSTON'S FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH

HOUSTONSFIRST.ORG

Welcome to HOUSTON'S FIRST



Turn back the pages on the history of today's global organizations and you'll often find humble beginnings. A pharmacist created a flavored syrup and mixed it with carbonated water in 1886. Now, Coca-Cola is served an estimated 1.9 billion times every day. College drop-outs tinkered with computer parts in a garage in the mid-'70s. Now, Apple's revenue exceeded \$265 billion in 2018.

What about Houston's First? At our founding moment on April 10, 1841, there was a small group of believers on the banks of Buffalo Bayou gathering to worship Jesus. The City of Houston was only five years old, and Texas was still a sovereign nation. The simple formula for our church's growth since then can be traced back to that day in 1841—and it can be narrowed down to one powerful word.

In the minutes of that founding meeting, those original members noted they had gathered "for the purpose of forming an evangelistic church." *Evangelistic!* Their focus then continues to be our focus now—to tell others about the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.

Easter presents us with an opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to come to church where they will hear that Good News. But, for followers of Jesus, being evangelistic is an overflow of the love we have for Him. It is not limited to the calendar or special events. An invitation to church is important, but so is sharing with a co-worker what God has done in your life, offering to pray for a neighbor in crisis, and simply being intentional about pointing people to Jesus.

Building on 178 years of ministry, Houston's First's impact is far-reaching as we follow God's call to advance the Gospel here at home and around the world while lifting up the only name that truly matters—the name of Jesus. Let's continue to be that *evangelistic* church!

In Him,

Pastor Gregg

Pastor Gregg Matte

Be Evangelistic.



Over the last several months, we've looked at deepening our faith by incorporating practices that turn our attention to Jesus and align our hearts with His. We've sought to exchange what our natural inclinations might be for what we know God calls us to be—being still, being thankful, being together, being prayerful, being generous, and being selfless.

As we conclude the InnerChange emphasis, our focus is on being evangelistic—being intentional about sharing our faith with others and not being hesitant or complacent about telling them about Jesus. As Pastor Gregg reminds us above, Houston's First began with a desire to be an *evangelistic* church. Let's live that out as a church family and as individual followers of Jesus. Here are some suggestion on how to do just that:

- **Pray** for God to give you a burden for people who do not know Jesus as their savior. Ask Him to open your eyes to recognize who they are, and for the Holy Spirit to guide you from there.
- **Share** what God has done in your life to one person in your family, one person you see regularly, and one stranger. Telling your testimony can open the opportunity to share the Gospel.
- **Invite** neighbors to an Easter service at Houston's First and/or to an Easter lunch or neighborhood egg hunt with the intention of building a relationship beyond a simple driveway "hello."
- **Preschoolers** – make ZIP kits with non-perishable food, hygiene items, and a Gospel tract that your family can keep in your car to pass out to people you see on the streets
- **Children** – together, make a map of your neighborhood showing who lives where and noting any prayer requests or Gospel encounters you have with them over time
- **Students** – help your student explore opportunities to share the Gospel locally in your community or on a national or international mission trip with Houston's First

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



Find more resources for being evangelistic—and share your own—at HoustonsFirst.org



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

Who will you invite to
Come Celebrate

Easter

at Houston's First?

How powerful can a personal invitation be?

In *The Unchurched Next Door*, Dr. Thom Rainer reports that 82% of people who do not attend church would be at least somewhat likely to come if they were personally invited. Houston's First will place ads in local papers, run ads on area websites, and use social media posts leading up to Easter weekend—but the most effective tool we have is when you say to someone, "I invite you to come celebrate Easter at my church." So, who will you invite to gather with us this Easter and hear the life-changing message of the Gospel?

EASTER WEEKEND AT HOUSTON'S FIRST

Visit HoustonsFirst.org or text FIRST to 41411 for more about Easter plans at each campus.

THE LOOP

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

DOWNTOWN

Sun, Apr 21 @ 9a & 11a

ESPAÑOL

Sun, Apr 21 @ 9:30a

SIENNA

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

CYPRESS

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

EQUIPPING YOU TO SPREAD THE WORD!

At your campus, look for Easter invite cards and yard signs, and go to the Easter page at HoustonsFirst.org to download digital elements you can use on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



BROKEN for you

Maundy Thursday • Thu, Apr 18

The Thursday before Easter is known as "Maundy Thursday." The term "maundy" traces its roots to *mandatum*—the Latin word for "command." It was on this evening before Jesus' crucifixion that He gathered with His disciples for their last supper together. There, He washed their feet and told them:

"I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another." John 13:34

As the evening continued, He took bread and said, "Take this bread and eat it. This is My body which is broken for you. Do this to remember Me." (1 Corinthians 11:24) On Friday, He endured the agony of the cross as He took on the punishment we deserved for our sins. He was broken for you.

The Houston's First family will gather on the evening of Thu, Apr 18, to observe the Lord's Supper and remember Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf. See the schedule and speakers below, and visit HoustonsFirst.org for childcare details and more about Broken For You.

The Loop

7p • Dr. James Tour

Cypress

7p • Campus Pastor Jason Swiggart

Downtown

7p • Campus Pastor Lee Hsia

Español

7p • Campus Pastor Juan Alaniz

Sienna

Gathering with The Loop at 7p
(See page 5 for details)

SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

Houston's First is sending out 16 mission teams across the USA and around the world this summer. Some trips are full, but you can still join the trips below by the deadline provided! Visit HoustonsFirst.org or text HFBCMISSIONS to 41411 for more about these trips.

THE LOOP CAMPUS

Odisha, India – June 21–29 (deadline: Tue, Apr 30)

Kenya (Orphan Care) – July 5–16 (deadline: Sun, Apr 14)

Middle East (Medical) – July 7–15 (deadline: Sun, Apr 14)

Alaska – July 16–23 (deadline: Fri, Apr 19)

New York City – July 22–27 (deadline: Tue, Apr 16)

summer fun is almost here!

Summer is just around the corner! It's never too late to plan ahead, or to invite people to come with you. Visit HoustonsFirst.org for details and to sign up for the following opportunities.

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

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

DECISIONS

563 New Church Members

71 Joined by Baptism

13%

of New Members
were Baptized

ATTENDANCE

191,477 in Life Bible Studies

(5,175 weekly average)

193,601 in Worship Services

(4,964 weekly average)

35,046 on Webcast

(899 weekly average)

MISSIONS

28 Mission Trips with

2,243 Team Members



GENEROSITY

4,885 Givers to

Great Commission Fund

670 First-Time Givers

13%

of Givers gave
for the first time

MARCH MOMENTS



The Loop and Sienna Campus students share the Good News in NYC during Rushmore over Spring Break



Parent Commitment is observed with family and friends at the Español Campus



Downtown Campus joins with other campuses during a prayer moment led by Pastor Gregg



Cypress Campus students spend their Spring Break in Colorado serving the people of Denver



Fathers and daughters at the Sienna Campus enjoy their annual Sock Hop



Impact singles from multiple campuses get away for a weekend retreat

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOUSTON'S FIRST?

make it your church ORIENTATION

Come discover what it means to be a member of Houston's First! Learn about our mission, vision, ministries, and more while you meet staff members and find answers to your questions. Register at HoustonsFirst.org for an upcoming session at your campus.

The Loop (Sun, Apr 7 @ 12:30p & Sun, Apr 28 @ 6:15p) • Cypress (Sun, Apr 7 @ 12:30p)
Downtown (Sun, June 9 @ 12:30p)

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 Minister of Assimilation Kevin Spivey (Apr 3), Executive Pastor Dr. David Self (Apr 10, 17), and Minister to Men Eric Reed (Apr 24). Lunch is available for purchase for \$5, or feel free to bring yours with you. CONTACT: Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

CANHOPE

Mon, Apr 8 @ 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 Shayla Cliff from the American Cancer Society. 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.Oradad@HoustonsFirst.org

BLENDED & BLESSED CONFERENCE

Sat, May 4 @ 9a–4p — The Loop Campus (Chapel)

This livestream conference is for blended couples, single parents, and all those who care about blended families. You will hear from the most trusted and respected experts on the dynamics of blended families from around the country. But just as significant, you will hear interviews with blended families right here at Houston's First. Without a doubt, you will be challenged, inspired, encouraged, and realize that you are not alone! Register for \$5 per person, and childcare for \$5 per child (birth–5th grade), at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Holly.Crain@HoustonsFirst.org

THE LOOP CAMPUS

LIFE BIBLE STUDY ADULT LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

Sun, Apr 14 @ 11:45a–2p

The Loop Campus (Fellowship Ctr)

All Adult Life Bible Study leaders and their spouses—and anyone interested in serving—are invited to a free luncheon honoring our leaders. The lunch will be a time to rally together, find out where we are as a team, and where we are headed. Childcare is available for birth–5th grade, and 6th grade and older can attend with their parents. RSVP at HoustonsFirst.org. CONTACT: Judy.Stewart@HoustonsFirst.org

MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON SUNDAY EVENINGS

Sun, Apr 14 — The Loop Campus (Main Foyer)

If you attend the 5p service on Sundays at The Loop, discover how you can make a difference by serving on one of the teams that make Sunday evenings happen. On Sun, Apr 14, stop by the Main Foyer before and after the 5p worship service (4–5:15p, 6:10–6:30p) and after our 6:30p Life Bible Studies (7:30–8p) to meet reps from each team. CONTACT: Kristin.Hawkinson@HoustonsFirst.org

SPRING WEEKEND OF CHOIR (SWOC)

Apr 25–27 — The Loop Campus

Put together a musical in three days? That's what 1st–5th graders will do at SWOC—a weekend with music, Bible Quizzing, crazy games, dynamic activities, a carnival, and more. SWOC takes place Thu @ 6–8:30p, Fri @ 6–8:30p, and Sat @ 9a–2p with the performance (open to the public) on Sat @ 6p. Register at HoustonsFirst.org. CONTACT: Joy.Harris@HoustonsFirst.org

CYPRESS CAMPUS

REFRESH: WOODSHOP WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN

Thu, Apr 11 @ 9:30–11:30a — Cypress Campus

Ladies—we'll prepare the materials then help you create a beautiful, personalized wood serving tray for your home or to give to someone else! Come enjoy community and crafting fun! Register for \$20 per person at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Teal.Moran@HoustonsFirst.org

LEGACY 685 CYPRESS FAMILY PICNIC & PLAY

Sun, Apr 28 @ 12:30–2p — Cypress Campus

Foster and adoptive families from the Cypress Campus and surrounding community will gather for a BBQ picnic and to play on the playgrounds right outside after church. Lunch and dessert is provided, and all kids are welcome to attend! RSVP at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Legacy685Cypress@HoustonsFirst.org

CY-HUB GIRLS' RETREAT/GUYS' CAMPING TRIP

May 3–4

Girls (8th–12th grade) are headed to Hunt Retreat, and guys (8th–12th) are headed to Stephen F. Austin State Park for a weekend to press into a time of community, worship, and time with God. Sign up for \$35 per student at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Karen.Willingham@HoustonsFirst.org

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

FIRST-TIME HOME BUYER WORKSHOP

Mon, Apr 22 @ 6:30–7:30p — Downtown Campus (Rm 221)

God appointed not only when we would be alive, but where we would live, too. In Acts 17:26–27, Luke writes that God did this so that we may seek, reach out, and find Him. Buying a house for the first time can be intimidating. With the expertise of David Kichmar (Legend Home Lending) and Elyn Mead (Red Door Realty & Associates), you will learn the top 10 things you must know before buying a home. The informative event is FREE and dinner is provided. Register in advance at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Peter.Lee@HoustonsFirst.org

QUESTIONING CHRISTIANITY

Wednesdays, May 1–June 12 @ 6:30–8p

Downtown Campus (Rm 207)

Houston's First is a community that wants to listen to and engage with the questions and doubts of our friends. This 7-week series will feature video teaching by author/speaker Tim Keller, and we will dive into various questions about Christianity. To learn more about the series and to register, visit HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Peter.Lee@HoustonsFirst.org

COLLEGE MINISTRY: END OF SEMESTER BANQUET

Fri, May 3 @ 7–9p — Downtown Campus (Rm 220)

The end of the semester is almost here, and it's time to celebrate! So, put on your best dress and suit and get ready for the "red carpet" event of the semester complete with dinner, dessert, a photobooth and more! No RSVP required.

CONTACT: Jarret.Garber@HoustonsFirst.org

NEXTGEN MINISTRIES AT HOUSTON'S FIRST PRESENTS SUMMER KICKOFF AT



Fri, May 31 @ 6:30–9:30p — Typhoon Texas (Katy)

NextGen families (birth–12th grade) from every campus are kicking off summer with Typhoon Texas all to ourselves!

Find details and tickets at HoustonsFirst.org, or text SPLASH to 41411 for a link.

ESPAÑOL CAMPUS

ESPAÑOL CAMPUS — 4TH ANNIVERSARY

Sun, Apr 7 @ 9:15a — Chapel

The Español Campus will celebrate our 4th anniversary on Sun, Apr 7, and we want you to join with us! We'll thank God for all that He has done over the years, for His continued faithfulness, and for the many lives that have changed along the way.

CONTACT: Douglas.Hernandez@HoustonsFirst.org

ASTROS FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT

Sat, Apr 27 @ 3p — Minute Maid Park

Come cheer on our World Champion Houston Astros as they beat (hopefully!) the Cleveland Indians at Astros Faith & Family night! Then, stay after the game for a concert featuring contemporary Christian artist Matthew West and Campus Pastor Juan Alaniz interviewing Jose Altuve and Robinson Chirinos. Visit HoustonsFirst.org for ticket information.

CONTACT: Douglas.Hernandez@HoustonsFirst.org

SIENNA CAMPUS

BROKEN FOR YOU

Thu, Apr 18 @ 7p — The Loop Campus

Reserve your spot on our charter bus for Broken For You. We'll meet at 5:30p in the Sienna Campus parking lot then travel to The Loop Campus to hear guest speaker Dr. James Tour speak as we remember Jesus' sacrifice and how He was broken for us. Register at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Kelli.Boylan@HoustonsFirst.org

MOTHER/SON DATE NIGHT

Fri, Apr 26 @ 6–8p — Sienna Campus

Moms—don't miss this totally tubular night of fun and laughs with your son! We'll have dinner, laser tag, a game truck, and much more! Come dressed in your best neon or '80s gear and take home the award for best costume! Register for \$20/couple (\$25 max/family) at HoustonsFirst.org. Space is limited!

CONTACT: Tyler.Scott@HoustonsFirst.org

JAM KIDS CHOIR

Sun, Apr 28 @ 8:30a, 9:45a & 11:15a — The Loop Campus

Our 1st–5th graders will lead the Sienna Campus in worship at each of our three services on the last Sunday in April. Come encourage—and be encouraged by—the next generation as they sing His praises!

CONTACT: Kelli.Boylan@HoustonsFirst.org

Visit HoustonsFirst.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

Available on the App Store

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

[Houston's First](#) [@HoustonsFirst](#) [@HoustonsFirst](#)

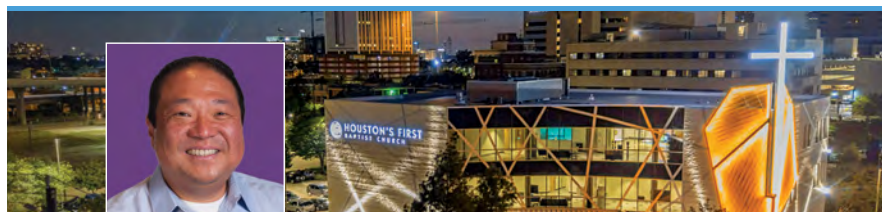
CYPRESS CAMPUS 11011 Mason Rd, Cypress, TX 77433 (Next to Bridgeland High School)



Jason Swiggart, Campus Pastor

[HoustonsFirstCypress](#) [@HFBCcypress](#) [@HFBCcypress](#)

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS 1730 Jefferson, Houston, TX 77003



Lee Hsia, Campus Pastor

[HFBCDowntown](#) [@HFBCDowntown](#) [@HFBCDowntown](#)

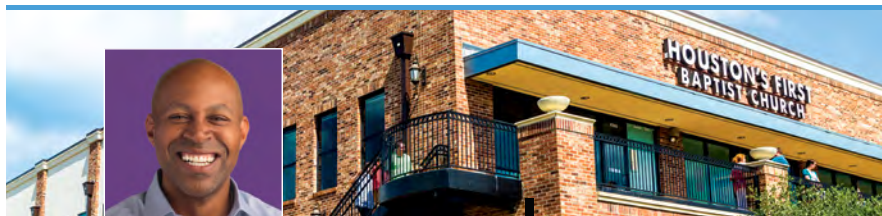
ESPAÑOL CAMPUS 7401 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77024



Juan Alaniz, Campus Pastor

[HoustonsFirstEspañol](#) [@HFBCEspañol](#) [@HFBCEspañol](#)

SIENNA CAMPUS 4309 Sienna Parkway, Missouri City, TX 77459



Malcolm Marshall, Campus Pastor

[HoustonsFirstSienna](#) [@HFBCSienna](#) [@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](#) or text [LIFEBIBLESTUDY](#) 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