

JULY 2019

# welcome.

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

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HOUSTON'S FIRST  
BAPTIST CHURCH

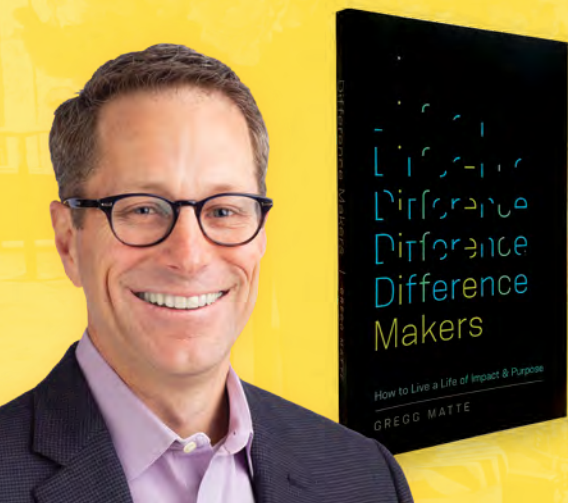
HOUSTONSFIRST.ORG



# WELCOME TO HOUSTON'S FIRST!

Here we are in the middle of summer—a season at the church filled with mission trips, camps, Vacation Bible School, and more. Summer also includes Pastor Gregg Matte's annual sabbatical. During this time away, Pastor Gregg says he gets away *with* God, not *from* God. He spends several weeks resting, praying, and planning for the year ahead. We look forward to having him back with us on Sundays beginning July 14!

This monthly *Welcome* Guide provides a quick look at what God is doing through Houston's First and just some of the opportunities for you to connect with our church family. You can learn more about these and others by talking with staff members and volunteers, and by visiting [HoustonFirst.org](http://HoustonFirst.org). If you're new to Houston's First, we encourage you to visit the Connection Center at your campus after the worship service on Sundays. They can answer any questions you might have about the Christian faith, our church, or how to join Houston's First.



## *Difference Makers* How to Live a Life of Impact & Purpose

In his latest book, Pastor Gregg Matte reminds us that the first step to being a difference maker is having a difference made in ourselves through the power of the Gospel. Once God makes that difference in your life, you are ready to go in Jesus' name to play your part in changing the world. Are you ready to jump in? Are you ready to make the Difference Maker Declaration?

*Difference Makers* is available now from CornerBooks and other retailers.

CornerBooks



## *Difference Makers:* The Album

*Connecting the heart of the book through song*

This new album combines the impact of the book and the repeatability of songs to create a powerful combination. The project features 10 original songs written by First Worship team members in collaboration with songwriters from LifeWay, Integrity, and Word Publishing. Among the songwriters was our own Pastor Gregg who co-wrote the title song—"Difference Makers."

*Difference Makers* is available now on iTunes • CDs available at each campus Sun, July 14

## UPCOMING MESSAGE SERIES

### "DIFFERENCE MAKERS" JULY 14–AUG 11

Being difference makers is part of our identity at Houston's First. When Pastor Gregg returns from his sabbatical on Sun, July 14, he'll start this series looking at how God's Word calls us and equips us to live out our faith in our neighborhoods, our homes, our workplaces, and our own church, too.

### "WHO'S YOUR ONE?" AUG 18–SEP 15

There are millions of people who do not have a saving relationship with Jesus. We cannot reach them all, but we can each take responsibility for one. And, because of God's power and the work of His Spirit, each of our ones can add up to make a significant impact for God's kingdom. Beginning Sun, Aug 18, this series will encourage and prepare us to reach our one with the Gospel.





# SERVING *your* COMMUNITY

Missionaries from every campus of Houston's First serve people across the greater Houston area in a variety of ways during Houston 1:8 each summer. Our largest mission trip of the year, however, isn't the only way members of our church family have an impact for the Gospel in their communities. Many of them serve throughout the year by continuing with connections made during Houston 1:8 or with one of our church's many local ministry opportunities or partners. They serve as individuals, families, Life Bible Studies, or just a group of friends wanting to make a difference together.

## THE LOOP CAMPUS

Faith Center — Harwin  
Faith Center — Spring Branch  
Faith Center — Timbergrove-Heights  
C.H.A.R.M. Prison Ministry  
Elijah Rising  
Generation One  
Global Frontier Missions  
Glocal Adventures  
International Student Friendship Ministry  
Montrose Street Reach  
Open Door Mission  
Star of Hope

## CYPRESS CAMPUS

Boys and Girls Country  
Care Net Pregnancy Center  
Cy-Fair Helping Hands  
Cy-Hope  
Sports Quest



Visit your campus' home page at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) and look under **Connect** in the main navigation for **Volunteers & Trips**.

On that page, click on the **Partnerships** tab for more about each of these opportunities and how you can serve your community along with them throughout the year.

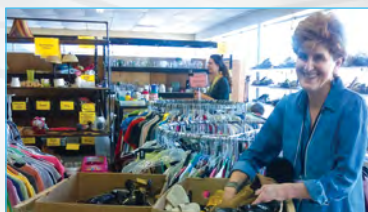


## DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

A 2nd Cup  
Apartment Life  
International Student Friendship Ministry  
Lord of The Streets  
Main Street Ministries  
Open Door Mission  
Outdoor Adventures  
Star of Hope  
Wise Guys

## SIENNA CAMPUS

Faith Center — Harwin  
Houston Welcomes Refugees  
New Zion Baptist Church (Wharton)  
Pregnancy Resource Medical Center  
Rosa Parks Elementary School  
Second Mile  
Sole Loved



## SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

Teams from Houston's First have already been to Cambodia, El Salvador, India, Spain, and Costa Rica this summer. Pray for the people they ministered to, and for the people our teams will meet on the summer's remaining trips:

**Kenya** — July 5–16

**Alaska** — July 16–23

**Panama City Beach (Rush Week)** — July 19–25

**New York City** — July 19–26

**Germany** — Aug 2–10

**Montana** — Aug 7–13







# SuperPlace CAMP



Each year, the Thru the Roof Special Needs Ministry at Houston's First partners with other churches to provide Super Place Camp—an annual VBS experience for special needs friends age 4 through high school (up to age 22). The Loop Campus is hosting this year's gathering July 22–26, and with 60 campers signed up to come, registration was closed back in May.

## Super Place Camp Partner Churches

- Houston's First Baptist Church
- Chapelwood United Methodist Church
- Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
- Memorial Drive United Methodist Church
- Tallowood Baptist Church

Speaking of Thru the Roof, the ministry recently expanded their suite at The Loop Campus thanks to a large unsolicited gift to the ministry. "A family simply loved what Houston's First was doing to serve special needs families and generously acted to help us expand what we offer in a more effective way," said Minister to Special Needs Families Daniel Williams.



The expansion of over 1,000 additional square feet provides a sensory-friendly environment with more natural colors, textures, and themes. The sensory room has doubled in size and equipped

with padded floor and walls and new elements to help friends self-regulate and be successful when they attend church. Each Sunday, Thru the Roof staff and volunteers serve between 40–50 special needs friends, with about 175 different friends attending throughout the year.

## Want to Serve?

Text **THRUTHEROOF** to **41411** to volunteer for Super Place Camp or to learn more about Thru the Roof.



Pray for our special needs friends and guests at Super Place Camp, and pray for those who will be ministered to in the Thru the Roof suite for years to come.

## Save the Date!

On Feb 7, 2020, Thru the Roof will again host the Tim Tebow Foundation's Night To Shine at The Loop Campus—a prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs ages 14 and older.

## JUNE MOMENTS



Over 100 men gather for Bonhoeffer, Burgers, and Bros at the Cypress Campus



Kids from multiple campuses connect with friends and God at Camp Intersect



Sienna Campus celebrates the diversity of the church on the Day of Pentecost



The Single Parent Family Ministry at The Loop celebrates Father's Day at Dave & Buster's



Kids encounter Jesus in God's Word at Vacation Bible School at The Loop and Cypress



College students from Downtown kick off summer at Speedy's Fast Track

## MINISTRY IMPACT OF HOUSTON'S FIRST YEAR-TO-DATE • JULY 1, 2018–JUNE 23, 2019

### DECISIONS

775 New Church Members  
123 Joined by Baptism



of New Members  
were Baptized

### ATTENDANCE

253,899 in Life Bible Studies  
(5,182 weekly average)  
265,284 in Worship Services  
(5,102 weekly average)  
50,686 on Webcast  
(975 weekly average)

### MISSIONS

34 Mission Trips with  
2,342 Team Members



### GENEROSITY

5,353 Givers to  
Great Commission Fund  
889 First-Time Givers



of Givers gave  
for the first time



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOUSTON'S FIRST?



## 2019 IGNITE THE FIRE —MEN'S RETREAT—

ADVENTURE X INSPIRATION X CONNECTION



**KENNY LUCK**  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**RYAN LANGFORD**  
WORSHIP LEADER

**Oct 4-5 — Pineywoods Camp (Woodlake, TX)**

Men from every campus of Houston's First are coming together for an action-packed time of adventure, inspiration, and connection with speaker Kenny Luck and worship leader Ryan Langford. Early Bird discount available through Sun, Aug 19. Register at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

**BAND OF BROTHERS**  
MEN'S MINISTRY

## 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 David Self (July 3, 10, 17 & 24) and Minister of Prayer and Connection Gabriel Ianculovici (July 31). Lunch is available for purchase for \$5, or feel free to bring yours with you. CONTACT: [Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org)

### WOMEN'S SELF DEFENSE CLASS

**Mondays, July 22-Aug 26**  
**The Loop Campus (Harbor Rm)**

Designed for women age 16+, this six-week self defense class focuses on situational awareness, throwing punches and kicks, breaking holds, fleeing and falling, and weapon breaks. The class is \$50, and you can register at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

CONTACT: [Brittany.Johnson@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Brittany.Johnson@HoustonsFirst.org)

## THE LOOP CAMPUS

### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

**Wed, July 17 @ 7-9:30p**  
**The Loop Campus (Garden Rm)**

Men from our Español ministry are encouraged to bring a friend to this night of food and friendly competition in the bowling lanes and game room in the Fitness & Recreation Center at The Loop. Register at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

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

### RE | CREATE DATE NIGHT

**Fri, Aug 2 @ 6-10p — The Loop Campus**

Life is busy and schedules can quickly get away from us. Before we know it, it's been weeks—or months—since we've spent quality one-on-one time with our spouse. So, the Married Young Adult ministry wants to help couples be intentional about spending time with each other on an actual date. Go out with your spouse while the church cares for your kids! Register for childcare and Thru the Roof Special Needs care at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) beginning Mon, July 1.

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

### SCHLITTERBAHN DAY TRIP

**Mon, Aug 5 @ 8a-7p — Schlitterbahn Park**

Middle School & High School students can come slip, slide, and/or be lazy all day with the HUB Staff and Summer Interns at Schlitterbahn Galveston! We will be meeting in The HUB and then riding buses to the park. Plan to bring a bag with a towel, sun screen, extra spending money (if desired), and a change of clothes. The cost is \$50 and covers transportation, Schlitterbahn Park ticket, a covered pavilion, lunch and dinner! There are only so many spots so register at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org)!

CONTACT: [Linda.Sproule@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Linda.Sproule@HoustonsFirst.org)

### BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF ESTATE PLANNING

**Sun, Aug 11 @ 12:30-2:30p**

**The Loop Campus (Oasis Rm)**

Adults of all ages and stages of life are invited to this free event led by Robert Kuck of PhilanthroCorp. Houston's First partners with PhilanthroCorp, a nonprofit organization, to provide free estate planning to our congregation. Learn more about how people of all ages can benefit from planning ahead! Lunch is provided, and childcare is available. Register at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

CONTACT: [Betsy.Walker@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Betsy.Walker@HoustonsFirst.org)

## CYPRESS CAMPUS

### RE | FRESH WOMEN'S WORD WORKSHOP

**Tue, July 23 @ 6:30-8:30p**  
**Cypress Campus (HUB)**

Women—connect and enjoy a creative outlet while learning the art of hand lettering. Pens, practice sheets, and all other materials are supplied, and you will take all materials home to continue your new hobby! The cost of the event is \$20 including supplies. Bring your creativity—and a friend—and register at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

CONTACT: [Teal.Moran@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Teal.Moran@HoustonsFirst.org)

### CY-HUB This Is War!

**Wed, July 31 @ 6:30p — Cypress Campus**

Students in grades 6-12 are invited to our second annual This Is War—the color war you don't want to miss! It's an epic—and free—way to spend a summer night, so bring your friends and get ready to battle it out! No registration is required. Just show up and bring a friend, too!

CONTACT: [Karen.Willingham@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Karen.Willingham@HoustonsFirst.org)

## DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

### FIRST KIDS AND MIDDLE SCHOOL GAME NIGHT

**Fri, July 19 @ 6:30-8:30p**

**Downtown Campus (Worship Center)**

Bring the family and join others for a night of food and games as we celebrate family, community, and summer fun! This event is for students entering Kindergarten thru 8th grade and their families. Dinner is provided. Register at [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org).

CONTACT: [Emily.Nguyen@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Emily.Nguyen@HoustonsFirst.org)

## SIENNA CAMPUS

### SUMMER SPLASHFEST

**Fri, July 12 @ 6-8p — Sienna Campus Lawn**

Taking place the day after Houston 1:8 wraps up, this free event features food trucks and water games on the Sienna Lawn! The evening benefits Houston Welcomes Refugees as we collect new sheet sets or complete bedding sets. Our goal is to give 500 sheet sets to HWR as they serve refugee communities. Twin sets are needed most, but full/queen sheet sets and bedding sets are also appreciated! Cash donations are accepted, too.

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

### FX: FAMILY EXPERIENCE



**Wed, Aug 7 @ 6:30p**

**Sienna Campus (Worship Center)**

Families with kids of all ages are coming together for an amazing worship experience for the whole family! We will laugh, dance, and learn more about God's plan for our lives. It's free and promises to be a lot of fun!

CONTACT: [Tyler.Scott@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Tyler.Scott@HoustonsFirst.org)

Visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://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



# 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, neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools, 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

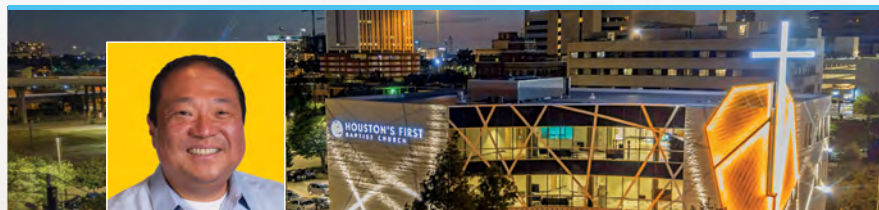
## CYPRESS CAMPUS 11011 Mason Rd, Cypress, TX 77433 (Next to Bridgeland High School)



Jason Swiggart, Campus Pastor

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

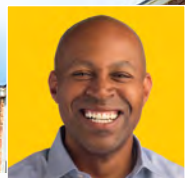
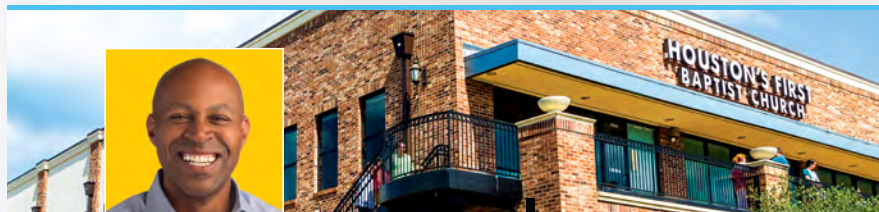
## DOWNTOWN CAMPUS 1730 Jefferson, Houston, TX 77003



Lee Hsia, Campus Pastor

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

## 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** 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 | Español Ministry 9:15a  
**Life Bible Studies** 8a • 9:15a • 10:45a • 6:30p | Español Ministry 10:45a

## CYPRESS CAMPUS

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

## DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

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

## SIENNA CAMPUS

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