

welcome.

aug 2019

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

- 2 Preparing for Fall | Who's Your One?
- 3 Make a Difference at Church
- 4 Milestones | Ministry Impact
- 5 What's Happening?
- 6 Where You'll Find Us



HOUSTON'S FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH

HoustonFirst.org

welcome to Houston's First!



Summer is winding down and fall schedules are starting to fill up. Before the new semester truly kicks off, it's helpful to take time to look ahead before the calendar gets the best of us! What are the "big rock" items you need to prioritize so they don't get lost in the busyness? What goals do you have that require some prayer, planning, and preparation? How can you be intentional in your faith, with your family, among your friends?

As you get ready for fall, I also invite you to consider how you can gather, grow, and give here at Houston's First. **GATHER YOUR HEART**—come together with your church family for worship services on Sundays or at special events at your campus. **GROW YOUR SOUL**—truly connect with a Life Bible Study and take advantage of the many Milestones classes we offer throughout the semester. **GIVE YOUR LIFE**—find a place where you can serve others on a regular basis and be a difference maker at church.

The beginning of the fall is one of my favorite moments in the life of our church family. With all the opportunities that lie before us this semester, I hope you're excited about it, too! Whether you're a recent guest or a long-time member, and wherever you are in your relationship with Jesus, I encourage you to make the most of what Houston's First has to offer in the months ahead. As you gather, grow, and give, you'll discover what it means to be part of a relevant biblical community.

In Him,

Pastor Gregg

Pastor Gregg Matte



DIFFERENCE MAKERS *resources*

Difference Makers is a movement that calls us to live a life of impact and purpose—and the book, album, and message series are resources to encourage you to do just that!

THE BOOK

Pastor Gregg's newest book reminds us that the first step to being a difference maker is having a difference made in ourselves through the power of the Gospel. Available from CornerBooks, Amazon, LifeWay, and other retailers.

THE ALBUM

Connecting the heart of the movement through song, the album features 10 original songs by our First Worship team—and Pastor Gregg co-wrote the title song. Available on iTunes and from CornerBooks.

THE SERIES

Pastor Gregg looks at how difference makers are called to live on purpose at work, home, and church in this five-part series from July 14–Aug 11. Find previous messages on HoustonFirst.org, our app, or iTunes.

who's your **1**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. This message series will encourage and prepare us to reach our one with the Gospel!



Where can you MAKE A DIFFERENCE at Houston's First?

"...stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel..."
— Philippians 1:27

That's what more than 1,000 people do each Sunday and during the week across the campuses of Houston's First — "striving together as one" as they serve on our many different teams to live out the ministry of our church. Why do they do it? Here's what a few team members had to say:

"I serve in Preschool because I hope to help the littles connect with Jesus through play, getting dirty, and exploring. Who doesn't love Play-Doh and trucks?"
— Courtney Oldham

"I serve in the choir because I love to help lead the congregation into the holy time of praise and worship before the message is presented every Sunday."
— Jennifer Chamberlain

"I serve in The HUB Student Ministry because I love helping the next generation find all that Jesus has for them and they are fun and keep me feeling younger!"
— Donna Hester

"I serve on the Production Team as a camera operator because we want to spread the Gospel beyond the walls; we want to reach every corner the internet can take us."
— Jacqueline Chee

"I serve on the Guest Experience Team because I like making all people feel appreciated and welcomed as they come to church."
— Scott Tillman

"I serve in women's ministry because when God touches your heart, you want to serve others."
— Erin Alderson

"I serve in our Life Bible Study because of the undeniable way God orchestrated the opportunity for me to serve, and the deep need I have for genuine community."
— Lance Parker

Opportunities may vary from campus to campus, but one thing is the same no matter where you attend: **there is a place for you to make a difference!** To explore the options and complete an interest form...

- Visit **HoustonsFirst.org**
- Text **HFBCSERVE** to **41411**
- Go to the Houston's First app

Spiritual Gifts Assessment

Unaware of your spiritual gifts, heart passions, or personality traits? A confidential spiritual gifts assessment is available for you free of charge courtesy of Houston's First! While completion of this assessment is not required to serve at the church, it can better assist you in determining where to use your spiritual gifts.

To learn more and complete the free assessment, go to **HoustonsFirst.org** and search **"Spiritual Gifts Assessment."**



Have a topic you want to know about? Struggling with your stage of life? Check out what's offered through Milestones — a framework for adult discipleship that extends beyond Life Bible Studies. Most are offered during MidLink (Wednesday evening programming) and others taking place on other days and times.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

More than 60 different Milestones opportunities are offered this fall across our different campuses, with options varying by campus. Here are a few examples:

- Abiding in Christ
- Apologetics 101: Answering the Tough Questions
- Chronological Bible Storytelling
- Difference Makers: How To Live a Life of Impact & Purpose
- Discerning the Voice of God
- Financial Peace University
- How God Makes Men
- Kingdom Marriage
- Prodigal Parenting: Hope for Hurting Parents
- Raising Kids with a Faith that Lasts
- The Smart Stepfamily

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Milestones are open to church members and non-members, making them a great way to introduce somebody to Houston's First and the life-changing power of the Gospel. You can participate in Milestones at any campus, regardless of which campus you attend on Sundays.

HOW WILL YOU GROW?

Visit HoustonFirst.org or text **GROW** to **41411** for a list of Life Bible Studies and Milestones offered at your campus.

JULY MOMENTS



The Loop Campus hosts Super Place Camp for special needs friends



Family Game Night provides lots of laughs at the Downtown Campus



Women come together at re | fresh at the Cypress Campus



The HUB Students at Rush Week gather before another day of service



Missionaries from every campus loved our city during Houston 1:8

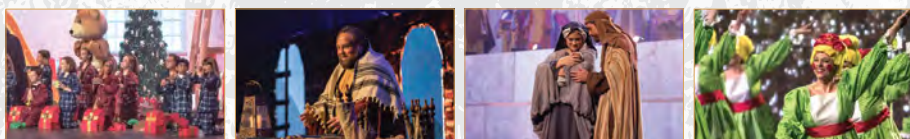


The Sienna Campus welcomes the community at Summer Splashfest



CAST & CREW

On Dec 12–15, Houston's First will celebrate the 10th production of *Celebration*—our Christmas musical presentation at The Loop Campus. Hundreds of volunteers make *Celebration* happen, so what role will you play behind the scenes, during the show, or on stage? Find opportunities and join the cast and crew at TheFirstChristmas.org or text **CELEBRATION** to **41411**.



MINISTRY IMPACT OF HOUSTON'S FIRST YEAR-TO-DATE • JULY 1–28, 2019

DECISIONS

54 New Church Members
5 Joined by Baptism



9% of New Members were Baptized

ATTENDANCE

19,712 in Life Bible Studies
(4,928 weekly average)
20,166 in Worship Services
(5,042 weekly average)
3,996 on Webcast
(999 weekly average)

MISSIONS

6 Mission Trips with
1,585 Team Members



GENEROSITY

2,608 Givers to
Great Commission Fund
72 First-Time Givers



3% of Givers gave for the first time

what's happening at houston's first?

Celebrating Pastor Gregg's 15th Anniversary

Sun, Sep 29 @ 5p — The Loop Campus
Every campus will come together at this free event to celebrate Pastor Gregg's 15 years at Houston's First with special guests Shane & Shane and other surprises!

Details coming soon!

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 (Aug 7, 14, 21) and Minister of Missionary Care & Projects Skyler Womack (Aug 28, Sep 4). Lunch is available for purchase for \$5, or feel free to bring yours with you.

CONTACT: Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

DEACON & MINISTER ORDINATION Sun, Aug 11 @ 2p — The Loop Campus (Worship Ctr)

The Houston's First family is invited to this special gathering as several church members are ordained as ministers of the Gospel or as deacons at our church. For a full list of those being ordained, visit the event listing at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Pam.Collins@HoustonsFirst.org

SINGLE PARENT FAMILY CAMP Sep 13–15 — Pineywoods Camp

Single parents and their kids will escape from the everyday with more fun than we can list here! We'll play hard, but also dive deep into God's Word with camp pastor Malcolm Marshall. Visit HoustonsFirst.org or text SPFAMILY to 41411 for details, cost, transportation, and to sign up soon!

CONTACT: Holly.Crain@HoustonsFirst.org

the loop campus

BAPTISMS EN ESPAÑOL Sun, Aug 11 @ 9:15a — The Loop Campus (Chapel)

Come celebrate with our brothers and sisters in the Español Ministry as they publicly confess their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ by symbolically dying to the world and being raised in new life in Him! This is the first baptism that the Español Ministry will do in the Chapel!

CONTACT: Douglas.Hernandez@HoustonsFirst.org

CANHOPE Mon, Aug 12 @ 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 Adam Mason, Minister of Counseling Services, MAMFC, LPCS, and the topic is Caregiver. Bring a salad, vegetable, or fruit to share and we'll provide the entree. Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP to 713.957.6764.

CONTACT: Sherry.Orador@HoustonsFirst.org

KICK-OFF SUNDAY Sun, Aug 18 — The Loop Campus

Wear your favorite team's colors—a professional team, your alma mater, a local school, or whatever it might be—as we kick off the fall semester! On that day, the Houston's First family is asked to bring financial contributions for the purchase of school supplies for kids connected with different ministries of our church. Visit HoustonsFirst.org for more details.

CONTACT: Jenny.Sheets@HoustonsFirst.org

NIGHT OF PRAYER & WORSHIP Mon, Aug 19 @ 6–8p — The Loop Campus (Chapel)

On every third Monday of the month, gather with others for this time of worship and prayer. We believe revival starts with prayer, so the aim of the night is to simply give a space for God to move. All are welcome, so bring your family and your kids! Childcare is available for birth through kindergarten.

CONTACT: Gabriel.Janculovici@HoustonsFirst.org

HOUSTON'S FIRST'S GOT TALENT

Wed, Aug 21 @ 6:30–8p The Loop Campus (Worship Center)

Have a known (or unknown) talent? Submit your audition video by Wed, Aug 14, and judges will select 12 acts to compete for prizes at this live show! Come early on Wed, Aug 21, for dinner available for purchase (4:45–6:15p) and our Milestones Expo (5:45–6:30p) with a look at classes offered this fall. Visit HoustonsFirst.org or text HFBCTALENT to 41411 for audition requirements, prizes, and more.

CONTACT: Geniffer.Roach@HoustonsFirst.org

REFUEL: PARENTING WITH PURPOSE Sun, Aug 25 @ 9:15a, 10:45a or 6:30p The Loop Campus (Gym)

Interested in seeing kids own their faith and walk with God for a lifetime? This free seminar about "Passing on Faith to Kids" will encourage and equip you to be a great disciple-maker in your home. It takes place during each Life Bible Study hour and no registration is required, so just come to the Fitness & Recreation Center gym. Learn more at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Doug.Bischoff@HoustonsFirst.org

THE CROSSING: LEGACY 685 LOOP FAMILY LUNCH Sun, Aug 25 @ 12:30–2:30p The Loop Campus (Oasis Rm)

All adoptive and foster families at The Loop are invited to a BBQ lunch for connection and fun! This family-friendly event is the first of our quarterly gatherings.

The cost is \$15 per family and registration is required at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Jolie.Garcia@HoustonsFirst.org

cypress campus

BEAST MODE DERBY Sat, Aug 24 @ 6–8:30p — Cypress Campus

Calling all men! Join us for our men's ministry's fall kickoff! Activities will include wiffle ball derby, corn hole, ladder golf, and great food. We'll also provide updates on upcoming events and initiatives in our men's ministry.

The \$5 cost covers food, so register at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Debbie.Spence@HoustonsFirst.org

KICK-OFF SUNDAY Sun, Aug 25 @ Noon–2p — Cypress Campus

Let's have one last summer hurrah before going back to school! Wear your favorite team's colors to church and stay for a PDQ lunch, bounce houses, slip-n-slides, kiddie pools, Sports Quest's free kick wall, Kona Ice (for purchase), and more! Bring a side dish to share and join in the family fun!

CONTACT: Deborah.Whaley@HoustonsFirst.org

MIDLINK KICK-OFF Wed, Aug 28 @ 6:30–8p — Cypress Campus

There is more to Houston's First than what goes on on Sundays! Join the Cypress Campus family this fall semester for MidLink—the overall name for everything that happens on Wednesday nights, with various activities for all ages (including dinner available for purchase at 5:30p).

Visit HoustonsFirst.org for details.

CONTACT: Debbie.Spence@HoustonsFirst.org

downtown campus

BACK TO SCHOOL FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT Fri, Aug 16 @ 6–8p — Downtown Campus

Enjoy food, treats, and giveaways while watching a family-friendly movie at this luau-themed event for families with kids in preschool thru 8th grade.

It's free to attend, but let us know you're coming at HoustonsFirst.org!

CONTACT: Emily.Nguyen@HoustonsFirst.org



2019
IGNITE THE FIRE
—MEN'S RETREAT—
ADVENTURE × INSPIRATION × CONNECTION

Oct 4–5
Pineywoods Camp (Woodlake, TX)

Men from every campus are invited to a time of adventure, inspiration, and connection with speaker Kenny Luck and worship leader Ryan Langford.

Early Bird discount available through Mon, Aug 19.
Register at HoustonsFirst.org.

BAND OF BROTHERS
MEN'S MINISTRY

COLLEGE MINISTRY: BATTLEFIELD HOUSTON

Wed, Aug 28 @ 7:30p Downtown Campus (Worship Center)

The College Ministry is kicking-off the fall with an epic night of Laser Tag Downtown—including a food truck, iPad giveaway, and more! The whole event is free so bring a friend and jump into a new semester with us!

CONTACT: Jarret.Garber@HoustonsFirst.org

COLLEGE MINISTRY: THE GATHERING Wed, Sep 4 @ 7:30p Downtown Campus (Worship Center)

The College Ministry is launching a brand new weekly night of worship and teaching as we desire to gather college students to grow and go with Jesus! This is a great way to stay connected to community throughout the week so be sure to invite a friend!

CONTACT: Jarret.Garber@HoustonsFirst.org

sienna campus

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

KICK-OFF SUNDAY Sun, Aug 18 — Sienna Campus

Wear your favorite team's colors—a professional team, your alma mater, a local school, or whatever it might be—as we kick off the fall semester! Come and see the grand opening of our brand new First Friends Outdoor Playground, too!


CONTACT: Kelli.Boylan@HoustonsFirst.org

MIDLINK Wednesdays beginning Aug 28 @ 6:30–8p Sienna Campus

There is something for everyone at the Sienna Campus on Wednesday evenings this fall! Find out more and register for various Milestones classes at HoustonsFirst.org.

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 HFBAPP 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 Hsiao, 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 or text [LIFEBIBLESTUDY](https://www.houstonsfirst.org) 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 | 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