

OCT 2019

welcome.

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

- 2 #life
- 4 Tour D.C. | Celebrating Ten Years
- 6 Where You'll Find Us
- 3 Light the Night
- 5 What's Happening?



HOUSTON'S FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH

HoustonFirst.org

welcome to HOUSTON'S FIRST!



Much of what takes place at Houston's First is measured in large numbers — attendance in the thousands, membership in the tens of thousands, giving in the millions. Even our history as a church is 178 years long! The number that matters the most, however, is much smaller — *one*.

We worship the one true God.

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and humanity, the man Christ Jesus..." — 1 Timothy 2:5

He sent His one and only Son.

"For God loved the world in this way: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." — John 3:16

Heaven rejoices over one salvation.

"...there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who don't need repentance." — Luke 15:7

The ministries of our church are focused on one, too — that one child, student, man, or woman who needs to know that the one true God sent His one and only Son for them. When we baptize people who have accepted the truth of the Gospel, we share the individual story of how God pursued them and we celebrate one more soul joining His family and ours.

Never forget that you're one, too — a unique creation adored by your Creator.

At Houston's First, you'll find a community where you are valued for who you are. Here, you can ask questions, get answers, connect with others, and grow in your relationship with the Lord in every season of life as we're seeing in the current #life message series. Many of you have been walking with Jesus for years, having already trusted your life to Him. For others, you might need to meet Jesus for the very first time — and we would love to introduce each one of you to Him!

In Him,

Pastor Gregg

Pastor Gregg Matte

#life

No matter what stage of life you're in, the Bible is relevant to anything you're facing. In this message series from Sep 22–Nov 17, Pastor Gregg Matte looks at what God's Word has to say for students, singles, married couples, parents, and more. You'll walk away with truth for you, as well as tools for others—encouragement for your stage of life and insight on how to help others connect with the Bible. Find previous messages at HoustonsFirst.org or on the church's app.



A Sunday with Dr. Emerson Eggerichs Sun, Oct 6

Houston's First welcomes *Love & Respect* author Dr. Emerson Eggerichs as part of the #life series as he talks about marriage in two different messages:

- one message will be given during the morning services at every campus
- a different message will be given at The5 (the 5p service at The Loop Campus)

After The5, Dr. Eggerichs will host a Q&A for married young adults at 6:30p in the Chapel at The Loop. Consider it a one-day marriage mini-conference! Who can you invite to come?





Get ready to Light The Night!

Being intentional about connecting with others and sharing the Gospel is part of a Christian's calling—and it's who we are as a church. One way of doing that is by getting to know our neighbors—from the noisy upstairs tenant to the perennial “Yard of The Month” winners down the block.

Halloween (Thu, Oct 31) is an ideal opportunity for the Houston's First family to make connections with those who live nearby. We call it “Light The Night” and what you do is up to you! From reverse trick-or-treating to driveway games to cook-outs to full-on block parties—our members have come up with a variety of ways to create opportunities to meet their neighbors and begin to form relationships.

“But, I don't think my neighbors would be very receptive.”

Before you talk yourself out of participating in “Light The Night” or any neighborhood outreach efforts, consider this insight:

“God is already working in your neighborhood. Being a good neighbor simply means slowing down and being aware of what He is designing. By developing real relationships, you'll find out how God is already moving in a person's life. You'll begin to overcome the fear that you once had and develop trust for one another.”

– *The Art of Neighboring* by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon

“Ironically, non-Christians are open to the message that Christians seem hesitant to share. Of the people who don't go to church, 78% agree (somewhat or strongly) that, ‘If someone wanted to tell me what she or he believed about Christianity, I would be willing to listen.’”

– Ed Stetzer, Executive Director of the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College



“OK. I'm in. What do I do now?”

Great! We look forward to hearing what God does as you intentionally step out in faith to build relationships with the people God has placed around you. So, visit **HoustonsFirst.org** or text **LIGHTTHENIGHT** to **41411** to:

- Find suggestions and resources
- Share your plans
- Submit your pictures



Celebration

TEN YEARS OF MEMORIES
DECEMBER 12-15

This year marks the 10th production of *Celebration*—our church's musical Christmas experience. Who will you invite to celebrate the spirit of the season and hear the Good News at one of six presentations this December?

TICKETS AVAILABLE
SAT, OCT 12
TheFirstChristmas.org



MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE / WASHINGTON, D.C. TOUR APR 27–MAY 2, 2020

Explore some of our nation's most important historical sites and discover the new Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C., on this tour open to adults from every campus of Houston's First! Our tour hosts are Minister of Education Ben Pritchett, Director of Women's Ministry (The Loop Campus) Carolyn O'Neal, and Houston's First members Peggy Bain and Drew Walters. Visit HoustonsFirst.org for more information, or contact Drew Walters at drew.walters@me.com.

INTEREST MEETING

Tue, Oct 15 @ 7p — The Loop Campus (Connection Ctr)

This interest meeting is not required to go on the trip, but you're encouraged to come learn about this tour and ask any questions you might have.



museum of the Bible



MINISTRY IMPACT OF HOUSTON'S FIRST YEAR-TO-DATE • JULY 1, 2019–SEP 22, 2019

DECISIONS

297 New Church Members
59 Joined by Baptism



of New Members
were Baptized

ATTENDANCE

63,602 in Life Bible Studies
(5,300 weekly average)
64,558 in Worship Services
(5,380 weekly average)
11,955 on Webcast
(996 weekly average)

MISSIONS

10 Mission Trips with
1,623 Team Members



GENEROSITY

3,405 Givers to
Great Commission Fund
203 First-Time Givers



of Givers gave
for the first time

SEPTEMBER MOMENTS



Parents and kids have a blast at Single Parent Family Camp



Men spend a Saturday morning helping widows during Men: Serve



The Sienna Campus family observes and celebrates baptisms



Cypress Campus students come together for The HUB Girls' Night



College students launch The Gathering on Wednesdays at the Downtown Campus

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOUSTON'S FIRST?

make it your church ORIENTATION



Visiting Houston's First for the first time? Recently joined? Have questions about what it means to be a member? Come to a **Make It Your Church Orientation** session at your campus to meet with staff members and hear about the mission, vision, and ministries of Houston's First as you enjoy lunch or dinner on us!

RSVP at HoustonsFirst.org.

The Loop — Sun, Nov 3 • Downtown — Sun, Nov 17

Watch for future dates for Cypress, Sienna, and Houston's First en Español

ALL CAMPUSES

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

This weekly downtown Bible study is open to everyone—including your “one” you’ve been praying for! Speaking this month is Minister of Missionary Care & Projects Skyler Womack (Oct 2) and Executive Pastor David Self (Oct 9, 16, 23, 30). Lunch is available for purchase for \$5, or feel free to bring yours with you.
CONTACT: Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

LEGACY 685 BIG EVENT Sat, Oct 5 @ 4–7p — Lanier Property (14130 Hargrave Rd, Houston, TX 77070)

The Big Event is our annual gathering where all Legacy 685 families from every campus come together for an evening of food, fun, and games. This is a great opportunity to connect with other adoptive and foster families. Trust us, you do not want to miss this! The cost is \$20 per family and dinner is included. Register at HoustonsFirst.org.
CONTACT: Jolie.Garcia@HoustonsFirst.org

3-DAY MARRIAGE CLINIC Nov 1–3 — The Loop Campus (Rm 257/258)

Couples—this unique marriage intensive provides the equivalent of 18 weeks of counseling in just three days! The 3-Day Marriage Clinic led by Karl Elkins, Th.M., MA, LPCS, highlights the 25 essential marriage skills found in the Bible. These skills are taught in a group environment, but all projects are done alone with your partner. You must attend all three days and no childcare is available. Learn more and register at HoustonsFirst.org.
CONTACT: Denise.Munton@HoustonsFirst.org

“UNDER THE TEXAS SKY” HOEDOWN Sat, Nov 9 @ 6–10p — George Ranch Historical Park

What do you get when you combine a historic Texas ranch, tasty BBQ, country dancing, and more? A night you don’t want to miss—Summit Hoedown 2019! Whether you boot scoot, 2-step, line dance, or just walk, find a way to get to this year’s Hoedown! Tickets are on sale Sun, Sep 29 and are \$30 (Sep 29–Oct 6), \$40 (Oct 7–Nov 3), and \$45 (Nov 4–9). Visit HoustonsFirst.org for more information.

THE LOOP CAMPUS

MIDLINK AT THE MOVIES Wed, Oct 9 @ 6:30–8:30p The Loop Campus (Chapel)

In the week between Sessions 1 and 2 of the Milestones semester, MidLink is going to the movies with a free showing of *Unplanned*, the story of how Abby Johnson went from being a Planned Parenthood director to being a pro-life advocate. The film is rated R and is not recommended for students younger than high school. Learn more about the movie and the evening at HoustonsFirst.org.
CONTACT: Jenny.Sheets@HoustonsFirst.org

CANHOPE Mon, Oct 14 @ 6–9p The Loop Campus (Reception Rm)

Ministering to families and friends touched by cancer, CanHope gathers on the second Monday of each month for dinner and prayer. This month’s speaker is Mary Gorham. Bring a salad, vegetable, or fruit to share and we’ll provide the entree. Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP to 713.957.6763.
CONTACT: Peggy.Jones@HoustonsFirst.org

PARENTING: YOU MAY BE DOING IT BETTER THAN YOU THINK!

Thu, Oct 17 @ 6:30–8p — The Loop Campus (Chapel)

Ever wonder how you’re doing as a parent? Or if your hard work is paying off? Hear Dr. Glenn Stanton from Focus on the Family as he shares why you may be doing a whole lot better than you think. Come for a dessert reception in the Main Foyer at 6:30p followed by a message from Dr. Stanton in the Chapel at 7p. It’s free and no registration is required. Childcare available for birth to kindergarten.
CONTACT: Geniffer.Roach@HoustonsFirst.org

NIGHT OF PRAYER & WORSHIP

Mon, Oct 21 @ 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.Ianculovici@HoustonsFirst.org

CYPRESS CAMPUS

REJ FRESH WOMEN’S WREATH WORKSHOP Tue, Oct 22 @ 6:30–8:30p — Cypress Campus

Ladies, do you ever see something in the store and think, “I could make that for less”? You’ll get the opportunity to do just that as we help you create a beautiful, personalized wreath for your home or as a gift for someone else. The cost is \$20 per person and includes the cost of materials. Register soon at HoustonsFirst.org!
CONTACT: Teal.Moran@HoustonsFirst.org

BLOOD DRIVE

Thu, Oct 24 @ 10a–2:30p — Cypress Campus

Give blood, save a life! The Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center’s mission is to partner with the community to save and sustain lives by providing a safe supply of blood, blood components, and related services. Make an appointment to give at HoustonsFirst.org.
CONTACT: Teal.Moran@HoustonsFirst.org

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

COLLEGE MINISTRY: THE GATHERING Wednesdays @ 7:30p Downtown Campus (Worship Center)

The College Ministry has 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

MIDLINK AND KIDLINK DOWNTOWN Wednesdays beginning Oct 2 @ 6:30p Downtown Campus

Ever wonder what happens on Wednesday nights at the Downtown Campus? MidLink is what we call it—our overall name for Wednesday night programming. There are classes for men and women as well as an exciting new program for children called KidLink! Visit HoustonsFirst.org for more information.
CONTACT: Peter.Lee@HoustonsFirst.org

EADO LIFE BIBLE STUDY FOR ADULTS

Thursdays beginning Oct 3 @ 6:30p — Off-Campus

Come grow your soul closer to God and fellowship with others through this off-campus Life Bible Study in EaDo (East Downtown). This is a great way to be involved in a smaller group and get to know people better. Contact Leon Brooks for details and location information.
CONTACT: Leon.Brooks@HoustonsFirst.org

SIENNA CAMPUS

PARENT COMMITMENT CEREMONIES Sun, Oct 13 @ 8:30a, 9:45a & 11:15a Sienna Campus

The Parent Commitment Ceremony is a time for parents who have demonstrated a commitment to God through salvation in Christ and church membership to publicly express their desire to raise their child in a Christian home, to bring the child to church, and to teach their child about Jesus. It is also a time for friends and family to join in corporate prayer for the parents and the child. We will have a ceremony during each service, and registration is required at HoustonsFirst.org.
CONTACT: Fraisie.George@HoustonsFirst.org

TRUNK OR TREAT

Sun, Oct 27 @ 5p — Sienna Campus (Parking Lot)

The whole family will have fun at Trunk or Treat—a free community event! Come for trunk-or-treating, carnival games, food trucks, a petting zoo, candy, and more. Also, please bring new packages of pencils as we collect 10,000 pencils for area schools in need! Sign up to host a trunk at HoustonsFirst.org.
CONTACT: Tyler.Scott@HoustonsFirst.org

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



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.

CYPRESS CAMPUS

THE LOOP CAMPUS/
EN ESPAÑOL

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

SIENNA CAMPUS

OUR CAMPUSES

The Loop / en Español

7401 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77024

Cypress

11011 Mason Road
Cypress, TX 77433
(Next to Bridgeland High School)

Downtown

1730 Jefferson
Houston, TX 77003

Sienna

4309 Sienna Parkway
Missouri City, TX 77459

Gregg Matte, Pastor HoustonFirst.org
📍 GreggMatte 📍 HoustonFirst
📧 @GreggMatte 📧 @HoustonFirst
📱 @PastorGregg 📱 @HoustonFirst

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 HoustonFirst.org 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.