

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!

I genuinely welcome you to our church today, but I also look forward to sending you out to impact others at home, work, school, or through a serving opportunity at Houston's First.

Our church has long had an interest and passion for missions—for going out into the community and around the world to share the Gospel. Houston's First was founded in 1841 by foreign missionaries from the United States who had come to the sovereign Republic of Texas to spread the Good News of Jesus. For the past 178 years until this very day, that heart for reaching others with the Gospel continues to beat in the life of our church.

We often say that when it comes to missions, we are either going, giving, praying—or disobeying. In the Great Commission that Jesus gave in Matthew 28:18-20, He calls us to “go and make disciples of all nations.” We see in other verses people who financially supported missionary journeys and those who prayed for missionaries as they set out to advance God's kingdom. At Houston's First, there are ample opportunities for you to do all three—to go, give, and pray.

This month, the dedicated Missions team at Houston's First unveils our 2020 mission trip destinations with opportunities around the globe and closer to home. In addition, Houston's First has vibrant local missions endeavors of our own and through different ministry partnerships. Since Houston is considered the most diverse large city in the nation, you can build relationships and share your faith with people from numerous countries without ever leaving town.

So, where is God calling you to go next year? I look forward to sending you out soon—and to hearing how God used you to make a difference for the Gospel!

In Him,

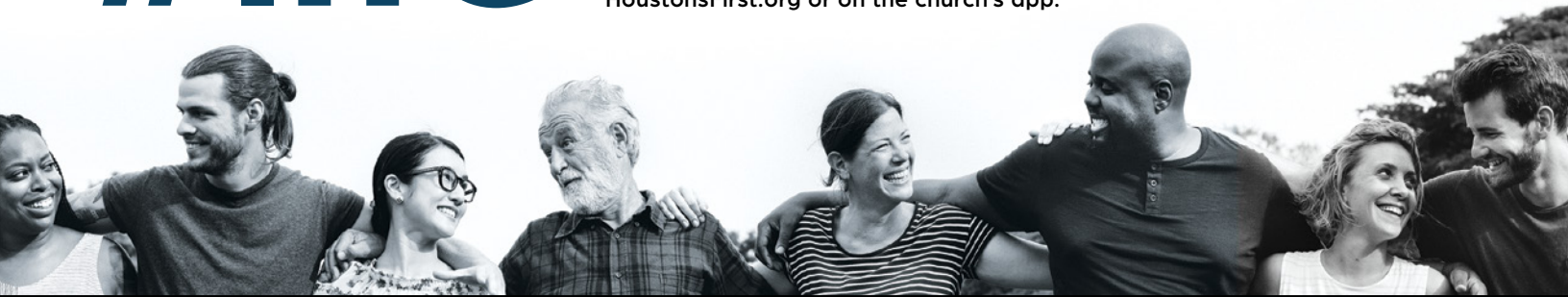
Pastor Gregg

Pastor Gregg Matte

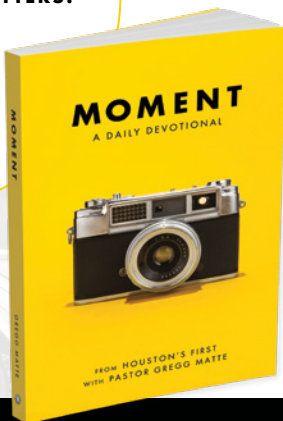


#life

Throughout the #life message series (Sep 22–Nov 17), Pastor Gregg and others have looked at what the Bible has to say for students, singles, married couples, parents, and more. The series has provided truth for each of us, as well as tools for others—encouragement for our stages of life and insight on how we can help others connect with God's Word. Find and share messages from the series at HoustonFirst.org or on the church's app.



EVERY MOMENT MATTERS.
WILL YOU CAPTURE
THE TIME YOU'VE
BEEN GIVEN?



MOMENT: A DAILY DEVOTIONAL FROM HOUSTON'S FIRST WITH PASTOR GREGG MATTE

The noise and speed of our world can seem overwhelming. Culture demands instant connectivity and communication. How are we supposed to hear from God over the roar of the river of time? In *Moment*—our churchwide devotional for 2020—daily scriptures plus readings based on Pastor Gregg Matte's messages provide a tool to enhance our moments with Jesus. *Moment* is designed to help jump-start your day, bring God's Word into clearer focus, and find some quiet in the noise.

AVAILABLE IN DECEMBER EXCLUSIVELY FROM CORNERBOOKS

GO ... AND TELL!

Mission trips can seem mysterious if you've never been on one or haven't spoken to someone who has. What do you really do? Who do you meet? What difference does it make? So, we asked people who went on mission trips with Houston's First in 2019 to share their experiences. Maybe a year from now, you can tell your own stories as you follow God's leading to GO in His name!

HOW DID GOD USE YOU TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

"He used our team to bring the Good news to refugee camps filled with families from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, and other countries." — Emily Cloud, Germany



"My skills as a nurse were used in the field. I got to love on the people in Cambodia and give them the utmost care." — Rebecca Byrd, Cambodia

Rebecca Byrd (left)

"Using our basic skills in technology we were able to help a few ministries and churches tackle their IT and audio/visual needs." — Kevin Ha, New York City



"God opened doors to allow me to pray with several mommas of special needs kids. He spoke through me to give comfort and hope." — Ashley Laws, Kenya

Ashley Laws (center)

"I had the opportunity to teach Bible stories to kids at VBS and our team got to see seven kids come to Christ! He filled the gaps of my shortcomings to do something amazing in the lives of over 60 kids!" — Zachary Freeman, Xàtiva, Spain

"He led me to divine appointments with Native Americans and with a Caucasian man coming out of longtime issues with drugs, alcohol, guns, and abuses." — Rob Jensen, Montana

"We encouraged missionaries serving in-country through prayer, teachings, worshipping, and fellowship to enhance the work they are doing in the field." — Robbie Schilhab, Canary Islands and Guatemala

WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT GOD ON YOUR TRIP?



"I was able to witness the power of prayer. As we prayed, I had goosebumps and it was 110° outside so I know it was the Holy Spirit! My faith was increased beyond words." — Courtney Green, Odisha, India

Courtney Green (left)

"When we say yes—no matter what—He takes us to places (geographically and spiritually) we would never imagine ourselves going to connect with brothers and sisters in Christ we never knew we had!" — Toby Thomas, Costa Rica

"God reinforced what I already knew about Him. He uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things and that's what we witnessed." — Torrance Wilson, Alaska

WHAT ENCOURAGEMENT DO YOU HAVE FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN ON A MISSION TRIP?

"The rookie mission trip was fun and convenient, and it was amazing to watch all the children on the trip work with joy-filled hearts to serve the Lord."

— Kyle Bethancourt, Costa Rica



"Smile. He can use you just as you are. Everyone has a story to tell. People like to hear your story as much as they want to share their own." — Karen Hoaglin, Alaska

Our missions team in Alaska



"You will experience God in a whole new way. He will change your perspectives!"

— Khai Huynh, Cambodia

Khai Huynh (right)



"Go! You will see Jesus move in people's lives in powerful ways AND use you as an instrument of His grace to the world!"

— Brian Jones, Odisha, India

Brian Jones



"Get out of your comfort zone and go see what God will do when you allow yourself to be exposed, to be weak, to be used and poured out. People need Jesus so go tell them about Him and what He has done in your life." — Leeann Rogers, Cambodia

Leeann Rogers

Our 2020 mission trips will be unveiled on Sun, Nov 10. Look for information at your campus, visit HoustonsFirst.org, or text **HFBCMISSIONS** to 41411.

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? For tickets, visit TheFirstChristmas.org, text **CELEBRATION** to **41411**, or call **1.866.200.9569**.



OCTOBER MOMENTS



The “Easy Israel” trip allowed those with limited mobility to tour the Holy Land



The Sienna Campus welcomed their local community at Trunk-Or-Treat



Women gathered at re:fresh at the Cypress Campus for crafts and fun



The Downtown Campus celebrated Parent Commitment with several young families



Men from Houston’s First en Español attend Hombres de Impacto, a statewide retreat

ISRAEL TOUR

MAR 20-29, 2020

The Houston’s First family from every campus is invited to tour Israel with hosts Cypress Campus Pastor Jason and Paige Swiggart, and church members Peggy Bain and Drew Walters. The deadline to register is Dec 31, 2019. Visit HoustonsFirst.org for a sample itinerary, pricing, and more about this amazing journey to the Holy Land!



MINISTRY IMPACT OF HOUSTON’S FIRST YEAR-TO-DATE • JULY 1, 2019–OCT 27, 2019

DECISIONS

380 New Church Members
69 Joined by Baptism

18% of New Members were Baptized

ATTENDANCE

89,934 in Life Bible Studies
(5,290 weekly average)
92,503 in Worship Services
(5,441 weekly average)
19,063 on Webcast
(1,121 weekly average)

MISSIONS

11 Mission Trips with
1,636 Team Members



GENEROSITY

3,651 Givers to
Great Commission Fund
281 First-Time Givers

7% of Givers gave for the first time

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOUSTON'S FIRST?

A COZY Christmas

Mon, Dec 2 @ 6:30-9p – The Loop Campus (Worship Center)

Cookies and cocoa and shopping and carols—these are a few of our favorite things! Women from all life stages and campuses—and our guests—will enjoy Christmas music and a time of speaking with author Lisa Harper. A reception will follow with refreshments and a fair trade market, too.

REGISTER AT HOUSTONSFIRST.ORG

Christmas — EVE —

Tue, Dec 24

In the final hours before Christmas Day, gather with the Houston's First family for candlelight services as we pause to reflect upon and anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birth.

**The Loop @ 2p, 4p & 6p | Cypress @ 2p, 4p & 6p | Downtown @ 4p
Sienna @ 2p, 4p & 6p | en Español @ 4p**

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 (Nov 6, 13) and Sienna Campus Pastor Malcolm Marshall (Nov 20). HighPoint will not meet on Wed, Nov 27, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Lunch is available for purchase for \$5, or feel free to bring yours with you. CONTACT: Diane.Bagby@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! Visit HoustonsFirst.org for tickets and for more information. CONTACT: Joshua.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

WARRIORS ON THE GREEN

Mon, Dec 9 @ 7a – BlackHorse Golf Club

First Baptist Academy is hosting this golf tournament to support the Warrior Fund, helping to bridge the gap between tuition and the cost of educating students. Early bird rates are good through Fri, Nov 8. Sponsorships are also available. Visit FBAHouston.org/golf or contact the FBA Advancement team to learn more. CONTACT: Advancement@HFBA.org

THE LOOP CAMPUS

THE CROSSING

Sun, Nov 10 @ 12:30p – The Loop Campus (Oasis Rm)

Legacy 685, our adoption, foster, and orphan care ministry, invites all Legacy 685 families and volunteers at The Loop to our Thanksgiving and Christmas gathering—a Thansmas, if you will! You can look forward to hot chocolate, Christmas music, lunch, and more. Families or individuals interested in volunteering or adopting or fostering are invited, too. Registration is required at HoustonsFirst.org. CONTACT: Jolie.Garcia@HoustonsFirst.org

CANHOPE

Mon, Nov 11 @ 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. Bring a salad, vegetable, or fruit to share and we'll provide the entree. Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP to 713.957.6764. CONTACT: Peggy.Jones@HoustonsFirst.org

THE CHRISTMAS STORE COLLECTION DAY

Sun, Nov 17 – The Loop Campus (Main Foyer)

This ministry of our Faith Center—Spring Branch serves families from mission churches, ministries, and other organizations supported by Houston's First. Families are invited to shop on a designated day and, while there, they also learn about the true gift of Christmas—Jesus Christ! The Christmas Store relies on the Houston's First family to provide thousands of gifts to fully stock our shelves. On Collection Day, bring a new, unwrapped gift to the Main Foyer at The Loop Campus. Visit HoustonsFirst.org or ask your Life Bible Study leaders for gift ideas. CONTACT: Claudia.Reyes@HoustonsFirst.org

NIGHT OF PRAYER

Mon, Nov 18 @ 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.lanculovici@HoustonsFirst.org

CYPRESS CAMPUS

SHANE & SHANE WITH PHIL WICKHAM CHRISTMAS TOUR

Sun, Dec 8 @ 6p – Cypress Campus

The Cypress Campus of Houston's First welcomes Shane & Shane and Phil Wickham as they present their annual Christmas Tour featuring a fun, family-friendly evening filled with holiday songs and original worship music! Tickets are \$20 each and all seats are general admission. Tickets are available at HoustonsFirst.org. CONTACT: Deborah.Whaley@HoustonsFirst.org

HUB GUYS' NIGHT

Fri, Nov 15 @ 6p-Midnight – Cypress Campus

Hey, Cypress HUB guys in 6th thru 12th grade! We're coming together for a night of worship, Bible study, community and FUN! This is a great opportunity to invite someone and introduce them to friends, our church, and Jesus! The cost is \$15 and dinner is included. Register at HoustonsFirst.org. CONTACT: Karen.Willingham@HoustonsFirst.org

SWEET ESCAPE WOMEN'S EVENT

Tue, Dec 3 @ 9:30-11:30a – Cypress Campus

As the holiday season will soon be upon us, take a break with the Women's Ministry and enjoy a Sweet Escape! Laugh a little as we hear from Nathaniel and Lindsey Kuhns as they reflect on holidays past and enjoy fellowship while Deanna Parker walks us through decorating a homemade Christmas treat. The cost is \$10. Registration is at HoustonsFirst.org. Childcare is provided! CONTACT: Teal.Moran@HoustonsFirst.org

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

MAKE IT YOUR CHURCH ORIENTATION

Sun, Nov 17 @ 12:30p – Downtown Campus (Rm 213)

Whether you've recently joined or have recently visited Houston's First, we invite you to attend *Make It Your Church Orientation*! You will hear from our campus pastor and church staff members about what it means to be a member of Houston's First. Enjoy a free lunch as you visit with them and meet other people who are new to the church, as well. RSVP at HoustonsFirst.org. CONTACT: Peter.Lee@HoustonsFirst.org

COLLEGE MINISTRY: THE GATHERING

**Wednesdays @ 7:30p
Downtown Campus (Worship Center)**

The College Ministry offers this 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

EADO LIFE BIBLE STUDY FOR ADULTS

Thursdays @ 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

DOWNTOWN CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sun, Dec 8 @ 5:30-7:30p

Downtown Campus (Worship Center)

You are cordially invited to celebrate Christmas at Downtown! Come ring in the season with food, fellowship and fun! The event is free and open to all so bring a friend. Details at HoustonsFirst.org. CONTACT: Leon.Brooks@HoustonsFirst.org

SIENNA CAMPUS

MOMS OF THE HEART (MOTH)

Sun, Nov 10 @ 7p – Bean Here Coffee

MOTH is a part of the ministry of Legacy 685, seeking to equip, empower, and encourage foster and adoptive moms on their unique parenting journey. Come together with other moms for teaching, fellowship, and connection! We are not meeting in December so if you can't join us this month, keep an eye out for 2020 dates! CONTACT: Legacy685Sienna@HoustonsFirst.org

HUB RETREAT

Nov 15-17 – Hunt Retreat


Hey Sienna HUB Students in 6th thru 12th grade—we are gathering for a retreat! This is an amazing opportunity to refuel, refresh, and learn more about our identity in Christ. We'll have laser tag outside in the dark, s'mores, football, and lots of other fun stuff! This is a can't-miss event! The cost is \$65 and you must register at HoustonsFirst.org by Wed, Nov 13. CONTACT: Mark.Cox@HoustonsFirst.org

THANKSGIVING FEAST

Sun, Nov 17 @ 4-7p – Baines Middle School

It's our annual time to recognize the Sienna Campus' Difference Makers, fellowship all together and eat good food! The Sienna Campus provides the turkey, desserts and drinks and we ask that you bring your favorite Thanksgiving side dish to share (dish should feed 20)! 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

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

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

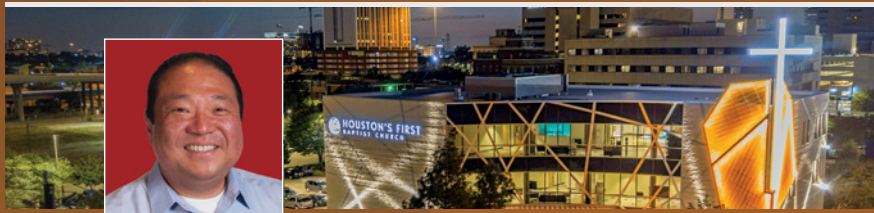
CYPRESS CAMPUS 11011 Mason Rd, Cypress, TX 77433 (Next to Bridgeland High School)



Jason Swiggart, Campus Pastor

[Houston's First Cypress](#) [@HFBC Cypress](#) [@HFBC Cypress](#)

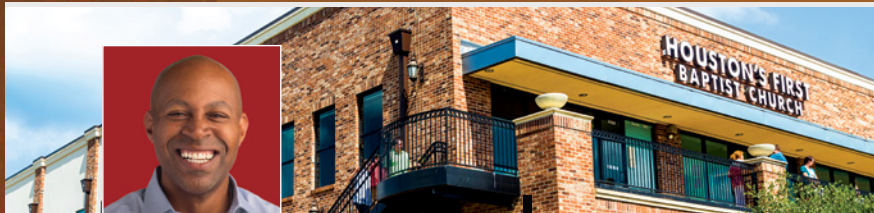
DOWNTOWN CAMPUS 1730 Jefferson, Houston, TX 77003



Lee Hsia, Campus Pastor

[HFBC Downtown](#) [@HFBC Downtown](#) [@HFBC Downtown](#)

SIENNA CAMPUS 4309 Sienna Parkway, Missouri City, TX 77459



Malcolm Marshall, Campus Pastor

[Houston's First Sienna](#) [@HFBC Sienna](#) [@HFBC Sienna](#)

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, has been baptized by immersion at our church or by a body of believers of like faith and practice, and agrees with the church's statements of faith and bylaws. 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 [Houston's First.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 [Houston's First.org](#).

SUNDAYS AT HOUSTON'S FIRST

THE LOOP CAMPUS

Worship 9:15a • 11a • 5p | en Español 9:15a

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