

welcome.

dec 2019

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

- 2 A Christmas Survival Guide
- 3 Celebration & Christmas Eve
- 4 Where Will You GO?
- 5 What's Happening?
- 6 Where You'll Find Us



welcome to houston's first!

The holiday season in Houston may not come with flurries of snow, but our days can be filled with a flurry of activity. At times, it may seem like a full-on blizzard of non-stop errands, parties, deadlines, and more—all blinding our vision and keeping us from seeing or enjoying the path leading us to Christmas Day.

So, I encourage you to slow down in the midst of the holiday storm. When that blizzard blows, pull over so you can get your bearings and see where you're headed.

What does "pulling over" look like? Pray, spend time in the Bible, connect with a friend, play a game with your family, reflect on what God has done this past year, and read our *Moment* devotional (yes, even before 2020 arrives). Doing so can clear your vision and help you make any necessary

course corrections so you can arrive on Christmas Day with a joyful heart ready to celebrate our Savior's birth.

Our Campus Pastors and I invite you make Houston's First your church home if you don't already have one. More importantly, we invite you to discover what it means to truly follow Jesus. Houston's First is a wonderful place to find answers, guidance, and encouragement on your journey. In this season of celebrating our newborn King in the manger, pull over and ask for directions to our Savior at the cross.

In Him,

Pastor Gregg

Pastor Gregg Matte



A CHRISTMAS

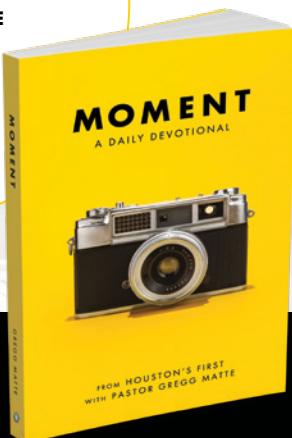
SURVIVAL GUIDE

A MESSAGE SERIES BY PASTOR GREGG MATTE

Dec 8–22

In this message series by Pastor Gregg, God's Word provides the tools we need to not just survive but thrive throughout the expectations, demands, and stress that can come during the Christmas season.

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.

For sample readings, text **MOMENT** to **41411** or visit HoustonFirst.org.

Available now at your campus only from *CornerBooks*

Celebration

TEN YEARS OF MEMORIES

DECEMBER 12-15

This year marks the 10th production of *Celebration* — our church's Christmas musical presentation. Nearly 150,000 people have experienced the message of Christmas and the Gospel at *Celebration* over the years. 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**.



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. Visit HoustonsFirst.org for details about childcare at each service.

THE LOOP @ 2P, 4P & 6P | CYPRESS @ 2P, 4P & 6P

DOWNTOWN @ 4P | SIENNA @ 2P, 4P & 6P | EN ESPAÑOL @ 4P

MINISTRY IMPACT OF HOUSTON'S FIRST

YEAR-TO-DATE
JULY 1, 2019—NOV 17, 2019

DECISIONS

465 New Church Members
86 Joined by Baptism

18% of New Members
were Baptized

MISSIONS

12 Mission Trips with
1,652 Team Members



ATTENDANCE

106,384 in Life Bible Studies
(5,319 weekly average)
108,824 in Worship Services
(5,441 weekly average)
22,685 on Webcast
(1,134 weekly average)

GENEROSITY

3,803 Givers to
Great Commission Fund
337 First-Time Givers

9% of Givers Gave
for First Time



MISSIONS 2020

WHERE WILL YOU GO IN 2020?

Houston's First is sending teams on 31 short-term mission trips to 17 countries on 5 continents in 2020. While the trips vary in location and the type of activities involved, they all have one thing in common — sharing the love and truth of Jesus. So, where is God calling you to go? Text **HFBCMISSIONS** to **41411** or visit **HoustonsFirst.org** to discover more about these 2020 opportunities:

OUR 2020 MISSION TRIP DESTINATIONS

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| • Brazil | • France | • Malawi | • South Asia |
| • Cambodia | • Guatemala | • Mexico | • South Sudan |
| • Costa Rica | • Haiti | • Montana | • Southern California |
| • Croatia | • India | • New York City | • Spain |
| • Denver | • Israel | • Panama City, FL | |
| • Dominican Republic | • Kenya | • San Diego | |

MAKING A YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION

Houston's First makes a difference for the Gospel in our city, our nation, and our world thanks to people who give to the church a portion of what God has given to them. Whether you contribute on a regular basis or have never taken that step of sharing your financial resources, we invite you to make a year-end contribution to Houston's First and join with others as we prepare for whatever opportunities God brings in 2020!

For 2019 contributions to qualify as tax-deductible, they must be received by the church one of the following four ways. Contact Betsy.Walker@HoustonsFirst.org or call her at 713.957.5806 should you desire additional information.



1

ONLINE

Giving online at HoustonsFirst.org is always a convenient way to share your generosity. Contributions submitted at HoustonsFirst.org must be made before midnight (Central) on Tue, Dec 31.



2

ON MOBILE

Contributions submitted on a mobile device must be made before midnight (Central) on Tue, Dec 31. To make a mobile contribution, text **HFBCGIVE** to **41411** for a link, or use the Houston's First Baptist Church app.



3

IN PERSON

Contributions can be submitted during the offering moment in the worship services at every campus throughout December. If not submitted then, contributions being made in person must be brought to the church's Financial Services office by no later than 4:30p on Tue, Dec 31. The office is located at The Loop Campus at 7401 Katy Freeway and is open Mon-Fri from 8a-4:30p, including Tue, Dec 31.



4

BY MAIL

The postmark date on the envelope must be before Jan 1, 2020. Contributions should be mailed to Houston's First Baptist Church, 7401 Katy Freeway, Houston, Texas 77024.

november MOMENTS

Members at The Loop Campus donated 474 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes



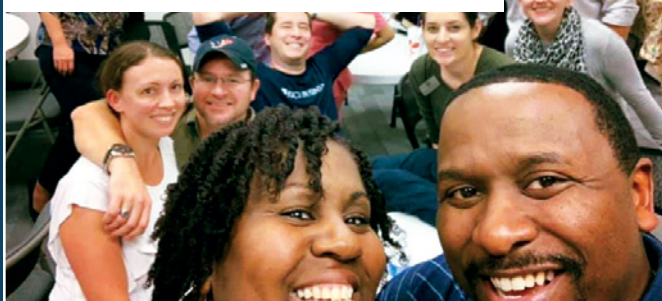
Our mission trip team in Rio de Janeiro partners with local fitness ministry



The Sienna Campus enjoys their annual Thanksgiving Feast



Downtown Campus couples wrap up the "Kingdom Marriage" Milestones class



First Baptist Academy welcomes special guests on Grandparents Days



Guys in 6th-12th grades hang out at Guys' Night at the Cypress Campus



what's happening at houston's first

IMPACT MINISTRIES

New Year's Eve Party

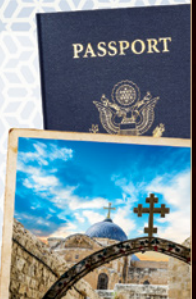
Tue, Dec 31 @ 8p — Hunt Retreat

Impact Singles (late 30s, 40s, and 50s) will ring in 2020 with an evening of hilarity and fun at Hunt Retreat! Come for the evening, or stay the night. Rooms are available, but space is limited. Get details and register at HoustonsFirst.org for this adults-only event!

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!



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 are Minister of Missionary Care Skyler Womack (Dec 4) and Executive Pastor Dr. David Self (Dec 11). Lunch is available for purchase for \$5, or feel free to bring yours with you. HighPoint will not meet on Dec 18, 25, or Jan 1, due to the holidays, returning on Jan 8. CONTACT: Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

WARRIORS ON THE GREEN

Mon, Dec 9 @ 7a — BlackHorse Golf Club, Cypress, TX
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. Sponsorships are also available, too. Visit FBAHouston.org/golf or contact the FBA Advancement team to learn more. CONTACT: Advancement@HFBA.org

MIDNIGHT MADNESS

Fri, Jan 31 @ 5:30p-Midnight — The Loop Campus
Life Bible Studies are a vital part of Houston's First. That's why we invest in our Life Bible Study leaders — so they are equipped to fulfill their roles. Current and prospective Life Bible Study leaders from each campus will gather for this annual equipping event for great training, inspiring vision, fantastic giveaways, interactive fun — and food, of course! Register and learn more at HoustonsFirst.org. CONTACT: Julianne.Kho@HoustonsFirst.org

THE LOOP CAMPUS

CANHOPE

Mon, Dec 9 @ 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

NIGHT OF PRAYER

Mon, Dec 16 @ 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

SPRING PREVIEW NIGHT

Wed, Jan 15 @ 6:30p — The Loop Campus
Kick off the spring semester of MidLink at The Loop with a Night of Prayer & Worship with guest speaker Timothy Ateek and the Breakaway Band. MidLink is the overall name for all that we offer on Wednesday nights, including Milestones (discipleship) classes, NextGen programs, music rehearsals, MidLink Cafe, and more. Save the date and watch for details in January! CONTACT: Gennifer.Roach@HoustonsFirst.org

CYPRESS CAMPUS

LEGACY 685 CYPRESS CHRISTMAS PARTY Sat, Dec 14 @ 11a-2p — The Barn at Legacy Center

Legacy 685 Cypress invites all foster and adoptive families to our final event of the year — Cypress Family Christmas at The Barn at Legacy Center. Come celebrate Christmas and take a break from the holiday chaos as we enjoy fellowship together and connect as a family. Register at HoustonsFirst.org. CONTACT: Legacy685Cypress@HoustonsFirst.org

CHRISTMAS AT THE MANSIONS

Thu, Dec 19 @ 5-7p — Mansions at Hastings Green
We are partnering again with the Mansions at Hastings Green to provide Christmas cheer for many of their residents. If you chose a child's name in November, please bring your gift by Tue, Dec 3. If you would like to provide snacks for the party, see your Life Bible Study leader. No RSVP for the party is required! CONTACT: Debbie.Spence@HoustonsFirst.org

HUB WEEKEND

Jan 17-19
HUB Weekend is a time for our Cypress Campus students (6th-12th grades) and their friends to steal away at the start of the spring semester to rest, build community, serve our city, and grow in their relationship with Christ. Visit HoustonsFirst.org for details and to register your student soon! CONTACT: Lindsay.Crisanti@HoustonsFirst.org

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

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! We will have s'mores over the fire, pictures with Santa, and dinner provided! The event is free and open to all so bring a friend. Details at HoustonsFirst.org. CONTACT: Leon.Brooks@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

PRAY IN THE NEW YEAR

**Sun, Dec 29 @ 11a
Downtown Campus (Worship Center)**
As we enter into a new year, we will seek the Lord together as a campus community. We will gather during regular Sunday worship time to pray in the new year in an interactive prayer service we call Selah. CONTACT: Lee.Hsia@HoustonsFirst.org

SIENNA CAMPUS

JAM KIDS CHOIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM Sun, Dec 8 @ 5p — Sienna Campus (Worship Center)

Come support our JAM Kids Choir as they present C.A.K.E., The Christmas Musical! Gather with us as our 1st-5th graders will help usher in the Christmas season with their musical presentation. CONTACT: Kelli.Boylan@HoustonsFirst.org

FIRST FRIENDS JOYFUL NOISE CHOIR Sun, Dec 15 — Sienna Campus (Worship Center)

Our First Friends choir will lead us in all 3 worship services. Make plans to come and hear our littlest voices sing praises to Jesus. 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

[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

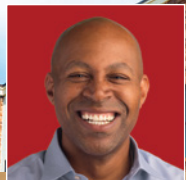
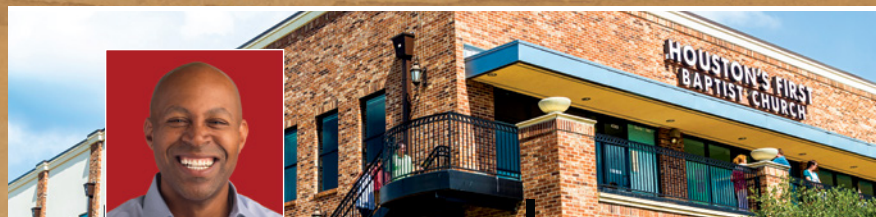
DOWNTOWN CAMPUS 1730 Jefferson, Houston, TX 77003



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, 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 HoustonsFirst.org or text [LIFEBIBLESTUDY](tel:7136818000) 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 | 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