

jan 2020

welcome.

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

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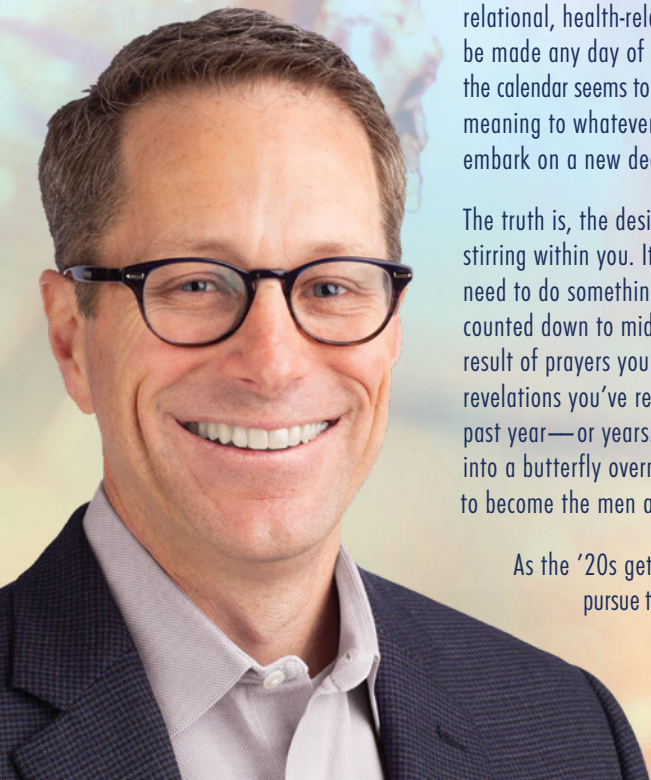
6 | Where You'll Find Us



HOUSTON'S FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH

HoustonFirst.org

welcome to HOUSTON'S FIRST



A new year can serve as a symbolic time for making new commitments in our lives, whether they are spiritual, financial, relational, health-related, or whatever. Such changes can be made any day of the year, of course, but the turning of the calendar seems to provide a deeper level of significance or meaning to whatever we set out to do—especially as we embark on a new decade!

The truth is, the desire to make changes has likely been stirring within you. It's doubtful that you first realized the need to do something differently in the new year as you counted down to midnight on December 31! Rather, it is the result of prayers you've prayed, conversations you've had, revelations you've received, and other moments over the past year—or years. Just as a caterpillar doesn't transform into a butterfly overnight, it takes time and intentionality to become the men and women God created us to be.

As the '20s get underway, I encourage you to pursue those changes you've identified—things to start or stop doing, or things to do more or less of in the new year. Also,

I invite you to let the ministries of Houston's First play a role in the process! Life Bible Studies, Milestones, our Fitness & Recreation Center, and our Counseling Center are just a few of the resources available to help you with the changes you want to make.

Finally, simply getting connected with a community of other believers could be the best step you can take to start the new year or pursue a new you. At Houston's First, you'll find people who will come alongside you and cheer you on no matter what changes you want to make—and no matter where you are in your relationship with God.

In Him,

Pastor Gregg Matte

Pastor Gregg Matte

fasting & praying

As 2020 gets underway, Pastor Gregg is inviting the Houston's First family to pray and fast at some point in January on behalf of our church and our personal lives, as well. Whether you choose to follow the Daniel Fast or to fast in a different way, be intentional about "letting go of a physical need for a spiritual plea."

To learn more about fasting, the Daniel Fast, and ways you can pray for the church this month, visit HoustonsFirst.org or text **DANIEL** to **41411**.



A message series by Pastor Gregg Matte

Now through the spring, Pastor Gregg will take us on a unique tour of God's Word, stopping off at the 20th verse of the 20th chapter of several books of the Bible. We will see that throughout all of scripture, no matter the characters or context, God provides wisdom and clarity that apply directly to our daily lives—in the year 2020 and beyond. Find previous messages at HoustonsFirst.org under Media / Messages.

2020

VISION

make it *your* church

ORIENTATION

Looking to get connected with a church in 2020? People often have questions before they join a church. Some may even have questions after they join as they seek to know their church better! Whether you've just recently visited or recently joined Houston's First, we invite you to discover what it means to be a member here at *Make It Your Church* Orientation. At these free events, learn about our mission, vision, ministries, and more while you meet staff members, find answers to your questions, and enjoy some complimentary food, too.

Our next *Make It Your Church* Orientation sessions are on Sun, Feb 16. Register soon at HoustonsFirst.org.

THE LOOP @ 12:30P & 6:15P (EN ESPAÑOL @ 12:30P)
CYPRESS @ 12:30P • DOWNTOWN @ 12:30P • SIENNA @ 12:30P

LIFE BIBLE STUDIES

Life Bible Studies are the primary we "grow our souls" at Houston's First. These smaller groups get together each Sunday at each campus to study God's Word, build community, and encourage one another wherever they are in life. If you have not already found a Life Bible Study, visit HoustonsFirst.org or text **LIFEBIBLESTUDY** to **41411** to explore the options, or ask a staff member or Guest Experience Team member for assistance. Be intentional in 2020 about connecting with a Life Bible Study at your campus!



SPRING 2020

milestones

essentials for spiritual formation

Aside from Life Bible Studies, you can also "grow your soul" at Houston's First in one of our many Milestones classes offered during the week at each campus. Milestones is a framework for adult discipleship that extends beyond Life Bible Studies to equip people in a particular stage of life, crisis, or in general discipleship. This is accomplished through semester-long courses, one-time classes, and special events.

Visit HoustonsFirst.org or text **MILESTONES** to **41411** to discover what's offered at your campus this semester!

ministry impact of houston's first

YEAR-TO-DATE
JULY 1–DEC 29, 2019

DECISIONS

507 New Church Members
96 Joined by Baptism

19%

of New Members
were Baptized

MISSIONS

12 Mission Trips with
1,652 Team Members



ATTENDANCE

125,218 in Life Bible Studies
(5,009 weekly average)
137,760 in Worship Services
(5,298 weekly average)
29,615 on Webcast
(1,139 weekly average)

GENEROSITY

4,088 Givers to
Great Commission Fund
429 First-Time Givers

10.5%

of Givers Gave
for First Time

NIGHT *to Shine*

SPONSORED BY THE **TIM TEBOW**
FOUNDATION™

Fri, Feb 7 @ 6-9p — The Loop Campus

Hosted by our Thru The Roof Special Needs Ministry, this prom night experience is open to guests ages 14+ with special needs—whether they attend Houston's First or not!

To register your special needs loved one to attend, visit HoustonsFirst.org or text **SHINE** to **41411**.
Pray for this to be a memorable night for everyone involved!



WHERE WILL YOU GO IN 2020?

Where is God calling you to go in 2020? Mission teams are forming now—and some trips are filling up—as the Houston's First family prepares to share the Gospel and Jesus' love and truth around the globe this year. Trips vary by campus, and some are for specific ministries. Visit HoustonsFirst.org or text **HFBMissions** to **41411** to discover where we are going and to take the first step toward joining a team!

OUR 2020 MISSION TRIP DESTINATIONS

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

save the dates

Put these events and opportunities on your calendars now, and look for details at HoustonsFirst.org, on social media, in the Welcome Guide, and through other channels in the months to come.

Rushmore (The Loop / Sienna) | Mar 7-12 — New York City

Rushmore (The Loop) | Mar 14-19 — New York City

Summer Kickoff (NextGen Families) | Fri, May 29 — Typhoon Texas

Camp Rush, formerly Camp Intersect (6th-8th grades) | June 1-5 — Camp Eagle

Pine Cove: Camp in the City | June 1-5 — Sienna Campus

Preteen Camp, formerly Camp Intersect (4th-5th grades) | June 9-12 — Trinity Pines

Rushmore (Cypress) (4th-5th grades) | June 12-17 — Denver

Vacation Bible School | June 22-25 — The Loop Campus

Vacation Bible School | June 22-25 — Cypress Campus

Houston 1:8 | July 13-16 — Locations around Houston

Rush Week (8th grade-Graduates) | July 21-27 — Panama City, FL

T Bar M: Discover Day Camp | July 27-31 — Cypress Campus

Super Place Camp (special needs) | July 27-31 — Chapelwood United Methodist

Churchwide Women's Retreat | Oct 9-10 — Omni Houston Hotel at Westside

Celebration | Dec 10-13 — The Loop Campus

december MOMENTS



Children's choir leads worship on a Sunday at the Sienna Campus



Cypress Campus hosts a Christmas party for The Mansions at Hastings Green



Thousands experience *Celebration*, our Christmas musical at The Loop



Downtown Campus family gathers for their annual Christmas party



The Loop Campus welcomes author Lisa Harper at A Cozy Christmas



Shane & Shane and Phil Wickham bring their Christmas tour to Cypress

what's happening at houston's first



fri. jan 31 @ 5:30p-midnight
the loop campus

Houston's First places great emphasis on Life Bible Studies—the primary way we “grow our souls.” To support this vital ministry, we offer our Life Bible Study leaders training throughout the year—but Midnight Madness is our premier leadership training for all age groups annually. Current and prospective Life Bible Study leaders from each campus will gather for this equipping event for great training, inspiring vision, fantastic giveaways, interactive fun—and and food!

Register and learn more at HoustonsFirst.org or text **MIDMAD** to **41411**.

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 Prayer & Connection Gabriel Ianculovici (Jan 8) and Executive Pastor Dr. David Self (Jan 15, 22, 29). Lunch is available for purchase for \$5, or feel free to bring yours with you.

CONTACT: Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

SUPERSTART WEEKEND

Feb 14-15 – The Loop Campus

SuperStart is a weekend where preteens (4th and 5th grade) from every campus will encounter Christ through worship, interactive teaching, and small groups—all designed with their unique needs and maturity in mind. Participants will leave with a great experience, plus the teachings and foundation to further amplify Christ's call on their lives to become Kingdom workers. Early registration cost is \$75. After Sun, Jan 12, cost is \$85. Register at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Mike.Harvey@HoustonsFirst.org

the loop campus

CANHOPE

Mon, Jan 13 @ 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: Debbie.Portilla@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 Worship & Prayer with guest speaker Timothy Ateek and the Breakaway Worship Band. MidLink is the overall name for all that we offer on Wednesday nights, including Milestones (discipleship) classes, NextGen programs, music rehearsals, MidLink Café, and more. On Preview Night, come for dinner at 5-6:15p, our Milestones Expo at 5:45p, and the Night of Worship & Prayer at 6:30p. Learn more at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Gennifer.Roach@HoustonsFirst.org

NIGHT OF PRAYER

Mon, Jan 20 @ 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

FITNESS EXPO

Sun, Jan 26 @ 12:15-2p **The Loop Campus (Fitness & Rec Center)**

Discover what the Fitness & Recreation Center (FRC) at The Loop Campus has to offer at this free event with demonstrations of fitness classes, assessments and screenings, a K-5th grade children's program, and community health and wellness participants, too. The FRC is open to the public and is a great resource whether you've resolved to make healthier decisions or are looking for inspiration to take your fitness to the next level.

CONTACT: Debbie.Brown@HoustonsFirst.org

The5 ON SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Sun, Feb 2 @ 5p – The Loop Campus

The5, our 5p worship service, will meet on Super Bowl Sunday as usual. Then, our 6:30p Life Bible Studies will choose to either meet at the church or off-campus somewhere to watch the game. Check with your Life Bible Study leaders to see what they have planned.

CONTACT: Kristy.Nguyen@HoustonsFirst.org

cypress campus

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 to register before midnight on Sun, Jan 12.

CONTACT: Karen.Willingham@HoustonsFirst.org

REFRESH: WELCOME WORKSHOP

Wed, Feb 12 @ 9:30-11:30a – Cypress Campus

Ladies—connect with other women and enjoy a creative outlet while painting a welcome mat for your front door. We will provide all the supplies needed for this fun and welcoming craft. Bring your creativity and a friend! Cost is \$20 and childcare is provided with registration.

Visit HoustonsFirst.org to register.

CONTACT: Teal.Moran@HoustonsFirst.org

downtown campus

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

MIDLINK AND KIDLINK DOWNTOWN

Wednesdays beginning Jan 22 @ 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 at the Downtown Campus. There are classes for men, women, children and students! Visit HoustonsFirst.org for more information.

CONTACT: Leon.Brooks@HoustonsFirst.org

WOMEN'S WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

Mon, Jan 27 @ 6p – Downtown Campus (Rm 221)

Ladies—start off the new year with a time of refreshment and connection. Connect with other women, your own artistic side, and our wonderful God through a watercolor workshop. Our guest Erika Brunson will share her powerful story of how God has worked in her life and how He used watercoloring to bring her closer to Him. She will teach us a few watercolor techniques along the way so we can create our own beautiful piece of artwork to take home! Refreshments provided. Details at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Erin.Krafft@HoustonsFirst.org

sienna campus

MOMS OF THE HEART (MOTH)

Sun, Jan 19 @ 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. Join other moms each month for teaching, fellowship, and connection! If you can't make this gathering, the next one is Sun, Feb 16. CONTACT: Legacy685Sienna@HoustonsFirst.org

FIRST FRIENDS PRESCHOOL PROM

Fri, Feb 7 @ 6-8p – Sienna Campus (Worship Center)

Parents bring your preschoolers (birth-Kindergarten) for a time of fun, music, and dance! This evening will be a fun-filled, energetic Winter Wonderland where preschoolers can dance the night away. Feel free to wear formal attire and plan to smile for a keepsake photo! Come prepared to enjoy dinner, lots of dancing, and a special performance you won't want to miss. Find details and registration at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Fraisy.George@HoustonsFirst.org

First Baptist
ACADEMY

Here are two opportunities to learn more about First Baptist Academy, located at The Loop Campus.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PREVIEW | INFANTS-TWOS

Fri, Jan 24 @ 8:30-10a **The Loop Campus (Main Foyer)**

Director of Early Childhood Marcy Harwell Clark will guide families through the curriculum and give them the opportunity to visit with faculty and administrators. Tours of the FBA campus will also be available. RSVP is encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome.

WINTER ADMISSION PREVIEW | PREK3-8TH GRADE

Mon, Jan 27 @ 5:30-7p **First Baptist Academy (Main Lobby)**

Families will get an inside look at each grade level's curriculum, school athletics, fine arts, and more. You will have the opportunity to visit with faculty and administrators. Guided group tours will also be available. RSVP is encouraged, but walk-ins welcome.

RSVP | fbahouston.org/preview | admissions@fbha.org
713.290.2524

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

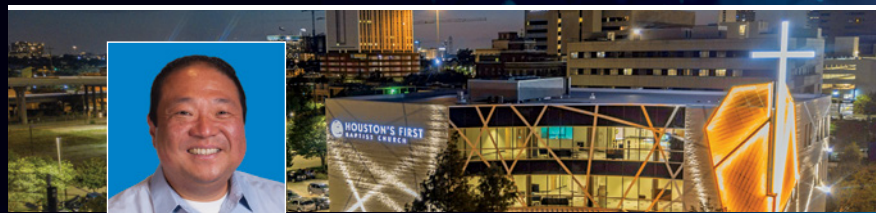
cypress campus 11011 Mason Rd, Cypress, TX 77433 (Next to Bridgeland High School)



Jason Swiggart, Campus Pastor

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

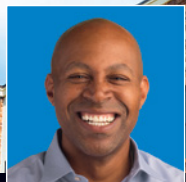
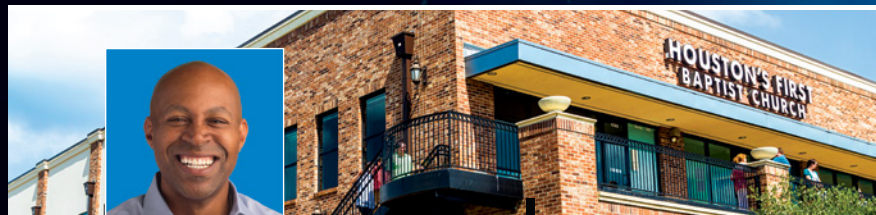
downtown campus 1730 Jefferson, Houston, TX 77003



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** 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 11a

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

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