



welcome.

march
2020

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

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HOUSTON'S FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH
HoustonFirst.org

WELCOME TO HOUSTON'S FIRST!

We started 2020 with great expectations of what was in store for our church and our personal lives in the new year—and new decade—ahead. But, as in any new beginning, that sense of anticipation for what's to come can quickly fade as time carries on and we get lost in the routines of daily life. The 'newness' seems to be replaced by 'sameness.'

That's what makes this March such a welcome moment. There are new opportunities on the horizon for our church as those original "great expectations" for the year continue to be realized. At the end of this month, we will gather at Prayer & Vision Nights to pray for our church and hear where the Lord is leading us in the year ahead. I'm looking forward to spending time in prayer with you for our church and sharing the vision and direction God has given us to follow.

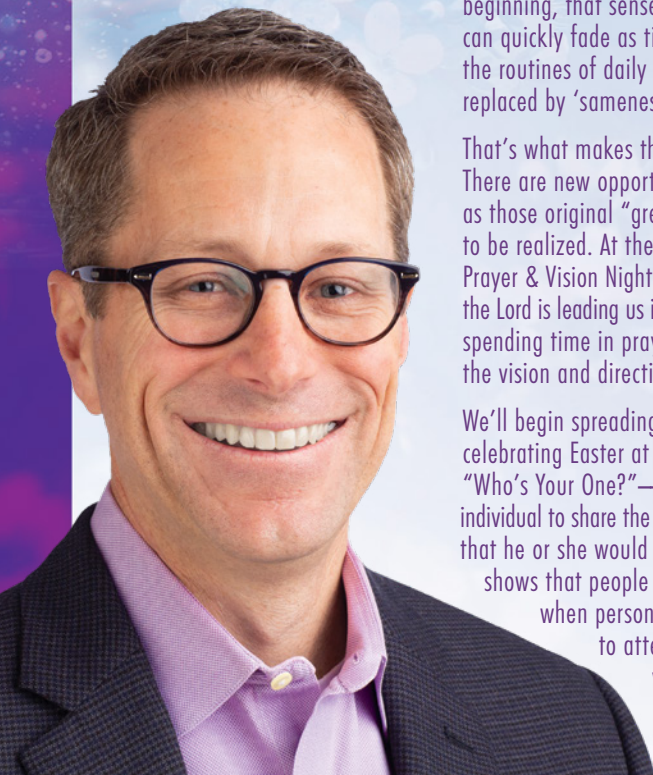
We'll begin spreading the word this month about plans for celebrating Easter at Houston's First. Last fall, we asked "Who's Your One?"—encouraging you to identify one individual to share the Gospel with and pray for in expectation that he or she would accept Jesus as their Savior. Research shows that people are more likely to come to church when personally invited, and they are more likely to attend at Easter and Christmas. So, invite your one to Easter at your campus and pray that they would have a heart to receive the Good News!

Finally, we're in the middle of the school semester, but it's time to register your preteens and students for summer camps. More than just time away from home with campfires, crazy games, and a lot of dirty laundry, camps offered by our NextGen Ministries are purposeful in discipling each participant toward a deeper relationship with Jesus. Our two kids—Greyson and Valerie—have loved their camp experiences and I know yours will, too.

It may not be the beginning of the year, but every day is a new day in the Lord and there is always something to look forward to as we walk with Him. If Houston's First is not your church home, I invite you to do something else new this month—visit a Connection Center, connect with a Life Bible Study, and learn what it means to follow Jesus or to be a member of our church community. We look forward to knowing you more!

In Him,

Pastor Gregg Matte



PRAYER & VISION NIGHTS

The Houston's First family is invited to participate in special evenings focusing on prayer for our church and the vision God has given us for the year ahead and beyond. Pastor Gregg, campus pastors, and campus worship teams will lead us as at each location as we humbly come before the Lord with expectant hearts ready to follow where He leads!

SIENNA CAMPUS

Sun, Mar 22 @ 6:30-8p

Baines Middle School, 9000 Sienna Ranch Rd

CYPRESS CAMPUS

Sun, Mar 29 @ 6:30-8p

Cypress Campus (Worship Center)

THE LOOP & DOWNTOWN CAMPUSES

Mon, Mar 30 @ 6:30-8p

The Loop Campus (Worship Center)

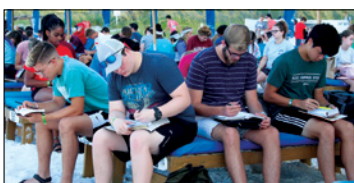


a new take on SUMMER CAMPS & MISSIONS

Our NextGen Ministries at every campus are taking a new approach to summer camps and missions for preteens, middle school, and high school students in 2020. The changes are designed to make the most of each opportunity as campers discover more about the Bible, grow in their relationships with Jesus, and learn to become more confident and independent as they approach high school graduation.

what is changing?

- Camp Intersect, which offered “two camps in one location” for 4th–5th and 6th–7th grades for several years, is now becoming two camps in TWO locations—Preteen Camp (4th–5th) and Camp Rush (6th–8th).
- Rush Week (8th–recent graduates) will return to Panama City Beach, Florida, but will have new lodging at Edgewater Beach Resort and a larger space for the nightly worship gatherings. The week will now include a new student discipleship conference element, too.
- Every campus is participating in each of the opportunities offered this summer—Preteen Camp, Camp Rush, and Rush Week—so children and students will be able to experience how we are one church in multiple locations around the city.



did you know...

By design, missions are integrated into all that our NextGen Ministries do. Our youngest children learn about missionaries through Mission Friends. At Vacation Bible School, children learn about a designated ministry throughout the week and the difference they are making. Preteen Camp will talk about what being missional is all about, and Camp Rush will go even deeper into what it means to help spread the Good News. Rush Week provides hands-on opportunities as students serve the Panama City Beach community in various ways. Rushmore trips (10th–12th grades) build off of skills acquired through Rush Week and introduce students to ministries our church partners with in other cities. Finally, our HUB International trips allow students to take what they have learned and experience sharing the Gospel on the field in another country.

why are changes being made?

- As our church grows, Camp Intersect outgrew our previous location. It was becoming difficult—if not impossible—for students from all four grades to be there at one time.
- Our NextGen team wants to provide effective transitions as participants go from being preteens to middle school to high school. Separating Camp Intersect into two events allows the participants to have age-appropriate experiences—going further distances from home, trying different types of activities, and deepening their focus on missions. This approach better prepares middle schoolers to make the transition into Rush Week when that time comes.

SUMMER 2020 CAMPS

Grades shown are for the 2020–21 school year. Visit HoustonsFirst.org for details and registration!

Camp Rush
(6th–8th grades)
June 1–5
Camp Eagle

Preteen Camp
(4th–5th grades)
June 9–12
Trinity Pines

Rush Week
(8th grade–recent graduates)
July 21–27
Panama City Beach, FL



ADULTS ARE WELCOME!

Adults can join in on the fun, too! We are always looking for great leaders to serve with and alongside our children and students. Contact your campus staff members to learn how YOU can join the team for a summer camp or throughout the year!

OTHER SUMMER FUN OPPORTUNITIES

Summer Kickoff

Fri, May 29 — Typhoon Texas
Open to NextGen families from every campus

Vacation Bible School

June 22–25 — The Loop Campus / Cypress Campus
Open to Kinder–6th grade and kids born by Dec 31, 2015 (The Loop), Open to PreK–5th grade (Cypress)

Pine Cove: Camp in the City

June 1–5 — Sienna Campus
Day camp open to 1st–4th grade

T Bar M: Discovery Day Camp

July 27–31 — Cypress Campus
Day camp open to Kinder–5th grade

Super Place Camp (special needs)

July 27–31 — Chapelwood United Methodist Church
Open to ages 4 thru high school (up to age 22)

COME CELEBRATE

Easter

AT HOUSTON'S FIRST

When you have good news to celebrate, you want to share it with others. Since Jesus' resurrection is the best news the world has ever known, who will you invite to come celebrate Easter at Houston's First? Our Easter weekend schedule is shown here, with full details available at HoustonFirst.org. You will also find details online about our Broken For You services taking place at each campus the evening of Thu, Apr 9, as we remember Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

THE LOOP
Sat, Apr 11 @ 5p
Sun, Apr 12 @ 9a, 11a & 5p
11a (Houston's First en Español)

CYPRESS
Sun, Apr 12 @ 8a, 9:30a & 11a

DOWNTOWN
Sun, Apr 12 @ 9a & 11a

SIENNA
Sun, Apr 12 @ 9a & 11a

WHERE WILL YOU GO?

Where is God calling you to go in 2020? Find the list of open mission trips below – including five with deadlines to join the team in the coming weeks. Trips vary by campus, and some are for specific ministries. Visit HoustonFirst.org or text **HFBCMISSIONS** to **41411** to discover where we are going and to take the first step toward joining a team!

New York City (The Loop Campus)
June 6–12 (deadline: Sun, Apr 5)

Costa Rica (Cypress Campus & The HUB Students)
June 9–17 (deadline: Sun, Mar 22)

Denver (The HUB Students – Cypress)
June 12–17 (deadline: Sun, Mar 22)

Spain (Cypress Campus)
June 19–27 (deadline: Mon, Apr 27)

Mexico (Legacy 685)
July 3–9 (deadline: Tue, Mar 31)

OTHER 2020 MISSION TRIPS
Brazil • Dominican Republic • France • Guatemala
India • Kenya • Montana • Panama City Beach

february MOMENTS



Sienna hosts Preschool Prom for young kids and their parents



Pastoral Care hosts a Valentine's lunch for widows at The Loop



Cypress women gather to create custom "welcome" mats

MINISTRY IMPACT OF HOUSTON'S FIRST YEAR-TO-DATE • JULY 1, 2019–FEB 23, 2020

DECISIONS

661 New Church Members
114 Joined by Baptism



17% of New Members
were Baptized

ATTENDANCE

170,049 in Life Bible Studies
(5,153 weekly average)
183,098 in Worship Services
(5,385 weekly average)
40,120 on Webcast
(1,180 weekly average)



Downtown hosts a meeting of pastors of Inner Loop churches

MISSIONS

12 Mission Trips with
1,652 Team Members



GENEROSITY

4,499 Givers to
Great Commission Fund
576 First-Time Givers



13% of Givers gave
for the first time



The Loop hosts Night To Shine for special needs guests

WHAT'S HAPPENING at houston's first



Sat, Mar 7
@ 8:30a-4:55p
The Loop Campus

Men (ages 13+) from across the city will hear from keynote speakers Ken Bevel (*Courageous* and *Fireproof* movies) and Tierce Green (*33 The Series*) and get to choose from 16 breakout seminars addressing topics that meet you right where you are, offering real and useful resources. Get details and register at HoustonFirst.org.

CRAZYBOLDFORJESUS
20TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Inspire women

find your spark and change the world™

Sat, Mar 28 @ 9a-Noon — The Loop Campus
Thousands of women will gather to be inspired, united, and empowered! Hear from Inspire founder and Houston's First member Anita Carman, John Townsend (author of *Boundaries*), Chrystal Evans Hurst, and Captain Tammie Jo Shults who miraculously landed Southwest Airlines flight 1380. Register at HoustonFirst.org and select "Conference Committee Church Special" for a 50% discount.

all campuses

PRAYER & VISION NIGHTS

Gather with Pastor Gregg, campus pastors, and the Houston's First family from your campus. See Page 2 or HoustonFirst.org for more information.

- Sienna Campus — Sun, Mar 22 @ 6:30-8p
- Cypress Campus — Sun, Mar 29 @ 6:30-8p
- The Loop & Downtown Campuses
Mon, Mar 30 @ 6:30-8p

HIGHPOINT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays @ 11:30a-12:40p — 1010 Lamar (Suite 1250)

This weekly downtown Bible study is open to everyone! Speaking in the weeks ahead are Executive Pastor Dr. David Self (Mar 4, 11, 21, Apr 1) and Minister of Campus Development Leon Brooks from our Downtown Campus (Mar 18). Lunch is available for purchase for \$5, or feel free to bring yours with you.

CONTACT: Diane.Bagby@HoustonFirst.org

IMPACT SPRING RETREAT

Apr 3-5 — Pineywoods Conference Center

"The Choices When God Is Silent" — that's what singles in their late 30s, 40s, and 50ish will explore as they get away for a relaxing weekend with teaching by Adam Mason and Dan Miller, music by The James Huber Band, and more activities than we can list here. Register at HoustonFirst.org at the Early Bird rate of \$84 through Sun, Mar 29, then \$99 after that.

CONTACT: Chris.Heitman@HoustonFirst.org

MEN: SERVE

Sat, Apr 18 @ 8a-1p — The Loop & Cypress Campuses

Several times a year, men come together on a Saturday to serve the widows of our church family. They go out in teams to do yardwork, make various household repairs, do vehicle maintenance, and other helpful tasks. The widows look forward to these Men: Serve days—and so do the men, too! Men will meet at The Loop and Cypress Campuses that morning. Guys—sign up by Fri, Apr 10, at HoustonFirst.org.

CONTACT: Julianne.Kho@HoustonFirst.org

the loop campus

CANHOPE

Mon, Mar 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: Debbie.Portilla@HoustonFirst.org

NIGHT OF PRAYER

Mon, Mar 16 @ 6-8p — The Loop Campus (Chapel)

On every third Monday of the month, gather with others for this time of worship and prayer. All are welcome, so bring your family and your kids! Childcare is available for birth through kindergarten.

CONTACT: Gabriel.Janculovici@HoustonFirst.org

VBS FAMILY PREVIEW NIGHT

Sat, Mar 28 @ 5-7p — The Loop Campus (Oasis Rm)

Come join the First Kids staff as they introduce this summer's VBS theme! Enjoy fun, food, and family activities as parents and children from The Loop come together to see what's ahead for VBS taking place the week of June 22-25. Sign up for Preview Night at HoustonFirst.org.

CONTACT: Courtney.Harris@HoustonFirst.org

NEXTGEN FAMILY ISRAEL TRIP LAUNCH PARTY

Sun, Mar 29 @ 12:15-1:15p — The Loop Campus (The HUB)

At this come-and-go fellowship, enjoy tastes of the Mediterranean as you ask questions, meet families who have gone before, and learn about this trip designed for families from The Loop. The trip takes place Mar 11-21, 2021, and allows parents, grandparents and kids to share the Holy Land together. For now, learn about the trip at HoustonFirst.org.

CONTACT: Doug.Bischoff@HoustonFirst.org

SPRING WEEKEND OF CHOIR (SWOC)

Apr 16-18 — The Loop Campus

At this power-packed musical weekend (Thu-Sat), children in 1st-5th grades learn and present an entire musical! Along the way, they enjoy Bible study, Bible Quizzing, fun and crazy games, dynamic activities, and a carnival, too. SWOC takes place Thu @ 6-8:30p, Fri @ 6-8:30p, and Sat @ 9a-2p with the musical performance on Sat @ 6p. Register your child for \$25 at HoustonFirst.org.

CONTACT: Joy.Harris@HoustonFirst.org

cypress campus

COLLEGE MINISTRY: H1C

Tuesdays @ 8p — Cypress Campus (The HUB)

H1C is a weekly gathering for college-aged young adults where you can know Jesus, find family, and live out your calling to love well. All are welcome so be sure to invite a friend!

CONTACT: Courtney.Richardson@HoustonFirst.org

MIDLINK

Wednesdays @ 6:30-8p — Cypress Campus

MidLink is the overall name for everything that happens on Wednesday nights at our Cypress Campus! While opportunities for kids include Mission Friends (birth-kindergarten), BLAST (1st-5th grade) and Cy-HUB Metro (6th-12th grade), the Cypress Campus also offers classes for adults with new options beginning Mar 18.

CONTACT: Debbie.Spence@HoustonFirst.org

downtown campus

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

Fri, Mar 6 @ 7p — Downtown Campus (Rm 221)

Ladies—grab your girlfriends and join in with others for tempting appetizers and desserts, coffee and specialty drinks, and live music. We will have time for fellowship, musical worship, and a short message that will refresh your soul. For more information, visit HoustonFirst.org.

CONTACT: Erin.Krafft@HoustonFirst.org

THE HUB DOWNTOWN

Sundays @ 9:30a — Downtown Campus (Rm 327)

Middle and High School students—The HUB, our student ministry for 6th-12th grade, has officially launched! Come join us on Sunday mornings for Bible study, and various Saturdays for social outings!

For more information, visit HoustonFirst.org.

CONTACT: Leon.Brooks@HoustonFirst.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@HoustonFirst.org

THE CHURCH AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Mondays, Mar 30-May 4 @ 6-8p

Downtown Campus (Rm 221)

This interactive class is designed to educate our community on human trafficking and anti-trafficking efforts underway in the Greater Houston area. Each week we will hear from a different front-line expert, including the FBI. This Milestones course is designed to help you take the next step in engaging with the fight. For more information, visit HoustonFirst.org.

CONTACT: Peter.Lee@HoustonFirst.org

sienna campus

SIENNA MEN'S RETREAT: TRIPLE THREAT

Mar 27-28 — Hunt Retreat, Brookshire, TX

Men—Let's pull away from the normal routine of life and spend time with God, His Word, and in fellowship with other brothers in Christ. Our theme is "Triple Threat" as we'll be challenged through the Word, Worship, and Warfare to strengthen our walk with Christ. You do not want to miss this adventurous, engaging and transformative weekend! Register now at HoustonFirst.org.

CONTACT: Ron.Barkley@HoustonFirst.org

THE HUB SIENNA DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT

Sun, Apr 5 @ 5p — Baines Middle School

Students in 6th-12th grades—this is your moment to show your dodgeball athleticism at our annual HUB Sienna Dodgeball Tournament! We have a group of adults who want to challenge you this year, too! Get your dodgeball team (5 people) together and come ready to compete at this free event with pizza and drinks provided. Teams will register at the event. Details at HoustonFirst.org.

CONTACT: Mark.Cox@HoustonFirst.org

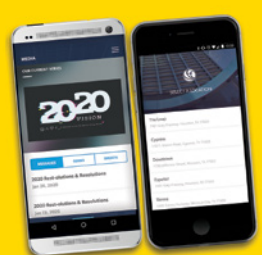
SIENNA WOMEN'S RETREAT: FLOURISH

Apr 17-18 — Forest Glen, Huntsville, TX

Ladies—what a fun way to enjoy a relaxing weekend getaway with other ladies as you to deepen existing friendships and make new ones, too. Our theme is "Flourish" and we will dive into God's Word to discover what scripture says about discipleship. Whether you are looking for a peaceful escape, an action-packed adventure, or a spiritual reset, you will find it here! Register soon at HoustonFirst.org.

CONTACT: Valerie.Norris@HoustonFirst.org

Visit HoustonFirst.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 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.

THE LOOP CAMPUS 7401 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77024



Gregg Matte, Pastor

[f](#) HoustonsFirst [t](#) @HoustonsFirst [i](#) @HoustonsFirst

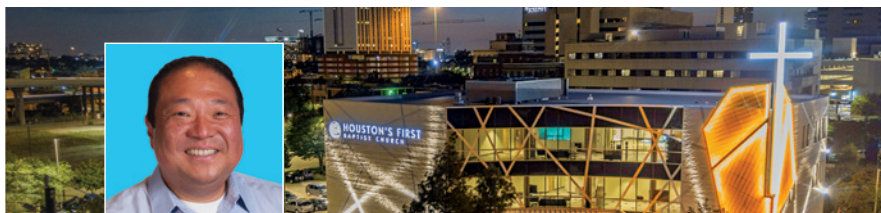
CYPRESS CAMPUS 11011 Mason Rd, Cypress, TX 77433 (Next to Bridgeland High School)



Jason Swiggart, Campus Pastor

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

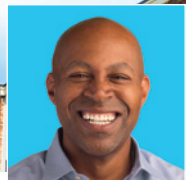
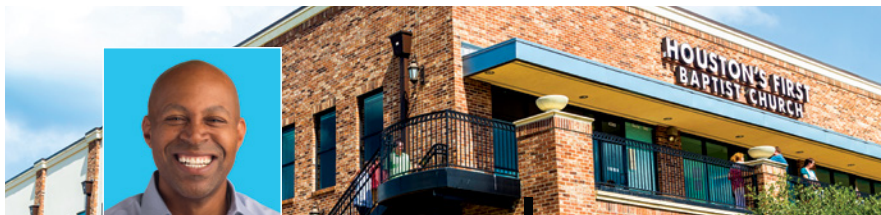
DOWNTOWN CAMPUS 1730 Jefferson, Houston, TX 77003



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