

## Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

Plan to gather with the Houston's First family for candlelight services on Christmas Eve. Visit [HoustonsFirst.org/Christmas](http://HoustonsFirst.org/Christmas) for details about the following options:

**The Loop** @ 2p, 4p, & 6p — 7401 Katy Fwy (Worship Ctr)

**Cypress** @ 4p & 6p — Tin Hall (14800 Tin Hall Rd)

**Sienna** @ 4p & 6p — 4309 Sienna Parkway

**Spanish** @ 2p, 4p, & 6p — gathering with The Loop

The Downtown Campus family and guests will come together to give life away serving at Open Door Mission.

### LIFE BIBLE STUDIES

Life Bible Studies are the primary method for connecting with others and growing together at Houston's First. Visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) to find one that's right for you, or ask the Welcome Team at your campus for assistance.



### PASSION 2016

Jan 2-4, 2016 — Toyota Center

Give life away as a Door Holder as we welcome thousands of 18-25 year olds to Houston to lift up the name of Jesus! Houston's First has a long relationship with Passion, and our church family is invited to serve throughout the gathering. Learn more and submit your Door Holder application at [HoustonsFirst.org/Events](http://HoustonsFirst.org/Events).  
**CONTACT Steven.Murray@HoustonsFirst.org**

### 2016 DEVOTIONAL



Pastor Gregg recommends the *Once-A-Day Walk with Jesus Devotional* for our church family to use in 2016. The 365 daily entries allow you to read through the New Testament in one year. Each day includes a Scripture portion, insight from a Christian writer of the past, and a personal application and worship portion. The devotional is available from CornerBooks for \$15.

### SUNDAYS AT HOUSTON'S FIRST

The Loop Campus	Cypress Campus	Downtown Campus	Sienna Campus	Spanish Campus
7401 Katy Fwy Houston, TX 77024	Smith Middle School 10300 Warner Smith Blvd Cypress, TX 77433	1010 Lamar (Tunnel Level) Houston, TX 77002	4309 Sienna Pkwy Missouri City, TX 77459	7401 Katy Freeway Houston, TX 77024
Worship 9:15a • 11a • 5p	Worship 9:30a & 11a	Worship 11a	Worship 9:30a & 11a	Worship 5p
Life Bible Studies 8a • 9:15a • 10:45a • 6:30p	Life Bible Studies 9:30a & 11a	Life Bible Studies 9:30a	Life Bible Studies 9:30a & 11a	Life Bible Studies 6:30p



Interested in a 2016 mission trip? For trip details and to complete an interest form, visit online at [HoustonsFirst.org/Missions](http://HoustonsFirst.org/Missions). Spring trips include:

California (Bay Area): Feb 24-28

Costa Rica (Family Trip): Mar 12-19

NYC (Easter): Mar 23-27

NYC (IT Trip): April 8-13

Brazil: May 11-16

Cambodia: May 12-22

**CONTACT Ameer.Omar@HoustonsFirst.org**

### NYC MISSION TRIP INTEREST MEETING

Sun, Jan 10 @ 12:30p — The Loop (Reception Rm)

We're sending out technology experts to church plants and ministry partners around the country to make a difference. On Apr 8-13, 2016, be a part of the team that consults on audio visual, information technology and everything in between. God called you for a higher purpose and He's equipped you with skills that can make a huge difference. Raise up, save up, pray up and join us!

**CONTACT Ameer.Omar@HoustonsFirst.org**

### POINSETTIAS

Help decorate our campuses this Christmas season by donating a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one. Make your \$12 donation online at [HoustonsFirst.org/Christmas](http://HoustonsFirst.org/Christmas) or use a designated envelope available at CornerBooks and at each campus.



### SHUTTLE PARKING

Do you attend The Loop on Sunday mornings? Use shuttle parking to make room for others! It's a simple way to expand the ministry of our church. Get details on the five garages at [HoustonsFirst.org/ShuttleParking](http://HoustonsFirst.org/ShuttleParking).



HOUSTON'S FIRST  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
PASTOR GREGG MATTE

Weekly Guide  
Dec 13, 2015

# Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

## THU, DEC 24

GATHER WITH THE HOUSTON'S FIRST FAMILY  
AS WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY.



SEE THE BACK OF THIS WEEKLY GUIDE  
FOR CAMPUS SCHEDULES.

## ALL CAMPUSES

### HighPoint Bible Study

**Wednesdays @ 11:30a — 1010 Lamar (Tunnel Level)**  
This weekly downtown Bible study is open to everybody! This week, Tyler Self will be teaching. Bring your lunch, or purchase one there for \$8. The lesson begins at 12:10p. Visit [HoustonsFirst.org/HighPoint](http://HoustonsFirst.org/HighPoint) to learn more.  
**CONTACT Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org**

### Stephen Ministry Training Class

**Applications due Wed, Jan 20**

Stephen Ministry training equips members through 50 hours of classes to come alongside individuals who are experiencing loneliness, relationship difficulties, loss, divorce, grief or spiritual crises in their lives. To become a Stephen Minister, apply at [HoustonsFirst.org/PastoralCare](http://HoustonsFirst.org/PastoralCare). Classes begin Jan 20 on Wednesday evenings during MidLink at The Loop.  
**CONTACT Denise.Munton@HoustonsFirst.org**

### SoFA Spring Registration

The School of Fine Arts (SoFA) at The Loop Campus is open to church members and the public, offering excellent private instruction to all ages. The spring semester begins Jan 4 with classes in voice, piano, guitar, brass, woodwinds, strings, dance, photography, and graphic design. Visit [HoustonsFirst.org/SoFA](http://HoustonsFirst.org/SoFA) for details and to register.  
**CONTACT Eric.Belvin@HoustonsFirst.org**

### YOUNG SINGLES

#### Summit New Years Eve

**Thu, Dec 31 @ 9p-2a — Lucky Strike**  
Strike gold at Summit NYE 2016! Whether you decide to eat, dance, sing, or play, we'll keep things rolling until the New Year comes! Don't miss this golden opportunity to ring in 2016 with other young singles. Online registration available through Wed, Dec 30, at [HoustonsFirst.org/Events](http://HoustonsFirst.org/Events).  
**CONTACT Joshua.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org**

### WOMEN

#### The Table

**Six Tuesday nights in early 2016 — The Loop**  
Come experience the presence of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit as women from across Houston join together ready to embrace the hope and provision found through the Word. Teachers Kay Altic, Kelly Matte, and Star Smith will lead us as we 'dine' together and see how Jesus is MORE than enough!  
**CONTACT Carolyn.ONeal@HoustonsFirst.org**

### MEN

#### Men: Serve

**Sat, Jan 23 @ 8a-1p — The Loop (Oasis Rm)**  
Men will gather at The Loop Campus then head out in teams to serve the widows of our church family around the city. Yard work, home repairs, car maintenance, and other tasks — there is a place for you to serve! Register by Fri, Jan 15, at [HoustonsFirst.org/Events](http://HoustonsFirst.org/Events). If you are a widow in need of assistance, contact Sherry Oradat at 713.957.6764.  
**CONTACT Emily.Brown@HoustonsFirst.org**

## THE LOOP

### CanHope

**Mon, Dec 14 @ 6:30-8p — The Loop (Garden Rm)**  
CanHope ministers to individuals and families touched by cancer and those who love and care about them. We will share a meal together; an entree is provided, so please bring a salad, vegetable or dessert. Come enjoy this time of testimony, prayer, and fellowship! RSVP to 713.957.6764.  
**CONTACT Sherry.Oradat@HoustonsFirst.org**

### YOUNG SINGLES

#### Desire: Summit Women's Conference

**Fri, Jan 15 - Sat, Jan 16 — The Loop (Oasis Rm)**  
How do we navigate our desires for His honor and our best? Keynote speaker Kori DeLeon will focus her remarks on God's passion, plan, and power to transform people into His beautiful likeness. Breakout sessions include "how-to's" in car care, investing, cooking and fitness. Mini-makeovers are available for conference attendees! Register for \$35 until Jan 14 at [HoustonsFirst.org/Events](http://HoustonsFirst.org/Events).  
**CONTACT Sherrie.Brown@HoustonsFirst.org**

## CYPRESS

### MARRIED YOUNG ADULTS

#### 3-Day Marriage Clinic

**Jan 11-13 @ 12-6p — Cypress Ministry Center**  
Though couples experience different symptoms such as anger, resentments, and withdrawal, the root problem is usually the same: violating one or more of the 25 Essential Marriage Skills found in the Bible. This 3-day marriage clinic, led by Dr. Karl Elkins from Christway Counseling Center, will explore essential marriage skills and provide the equivalent of 18 weeks of counseling in just three days! Register, for just a \$75 fee per couple at [HoustonsFirst.org/Cypress](http://HoustonsFirst.org/Cypress).  
**CONTACT Greg.Curnutte@HoustonsFirst.org or 713.335.6465.**

## DOWNTOWN

### NEXTGEN MINISTRIES

#### First Friends: Parents' Afternoon Out

**Sat, Dec 19 @ 11a-1p — 1010 Lamar**  
The holidays are nearly here, and wouldn't an afternoon of uninterrupted shopping be grand? Drop off the kids, shop, run errands or have a coffee date with your spouse. Let First Friends care for your kiddos (birth through Kindergarten) for the afternoon, and lunch is provided! Register by Mon, Dec 14, at [HoustonsFirst.org/Downtown](http://HoustonsFirst.org/Downtown).  
**CONTACT Kristin.Fowles@HoustonsFirst.org**

## SIENNA

### NEXTGEN MINISTRIES

#### Popcorn & Pajamas Family Movie Night

**Fri, Jan 8 @ 6:30p — Sienna Worship Center**  
You wear your pajamas and we will supply the popcorn for a family movie night! Families with kids of all ages are welcome to come and watch HOME. Light refreshments will be served. Learn more at [HoustonsFirst.org/Sienna](http://HoustonsFirst.org/Sienna).  
**CONTACT Cara.Buis@HoustonsFirst.org**

## SPANISH

### Worship & Life Bible Studies

#### Sundays @ 5p & 6:30p - Oasis Room

Due to Celebration, the Spanish Campus will not meet today. Next week, Sun, Dec 20, we invite you to come worship with us in Spanish and hear Pastor Gregg's message in Spanish or English! After the service, join us in a Life Bible Study — Seguridad en Cristo, Creciendo en la Vida Cristiana and Las Verdades De La Salvación.  
**CONTACT Karina.Bazaldua@HoustonsFirst.org**

## YEAR-END GIVING

As 2015 comes to a close, consider sharing your generosity with Houston's First to support the ministry of our church as we share the Good News in our city, our nation, and our world.

To qualify as 2015 donations, contributions must be received as follows:

### IN PERSON

Bring to the church's business office by 4:30p on Thu, Dec 31, 2015. The business office is located at The Loop Campus at 7401 Katy Freeway. Contributions can also be placed in the offering plate at any campus throughout December.

### BY MAIL

Must be postmarked before Fri, Jan 1, 2016, and mailed to Houston's First Baptist Church, 7401 Katy Freeway, Houston, Texas 77024.

### ONLINE

Submit contributions at [HoustonsFirst.org/Generosity](http://HoustonsFirst.org/Generosity) before midnight (Central) on Thu, Dec 31, 2015.

### MOBILE

Submit contributions on a mobile device before midnight (Central) on Thu, Dec 31, 2015. To make a mobile contribution, text your campus code to 77977 to receive a designated link — HFBCLoop, HFBCcypress, HFBCDowntown, HFBCSienna, or HFBCSpanish.

**Please contact Sara Johnson at 713.957.5806 or at [Sara.Johnson@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Sara.Johnson@HoustonsFirst.org) should you desire additional information about year-end giving.**

### GIFTS OF STOCK

Since the church is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, gifts of stock qualify as a charitable contribution and are tax deductible. If you would like to donate a gift of stock, or desire additional information, please contact Amber Willet at 713.957.5807 or at [Amber.Willet@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:Amber.Willet@HoustonsFirst.org).

Need more information? Call 713.681.8000, visit [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org), and follow us on     

#### As a courtesy to others:

- Silence cell phones
- Remain seated once message begins
- Use restroom before worship service
- If you leave, re-entry may not be allowed

#### At the end of the worship service as people are invited to accept Christ or join the church:

- Remain in the Worship Center
- Leave once we are dismissed
- Pray as people respond