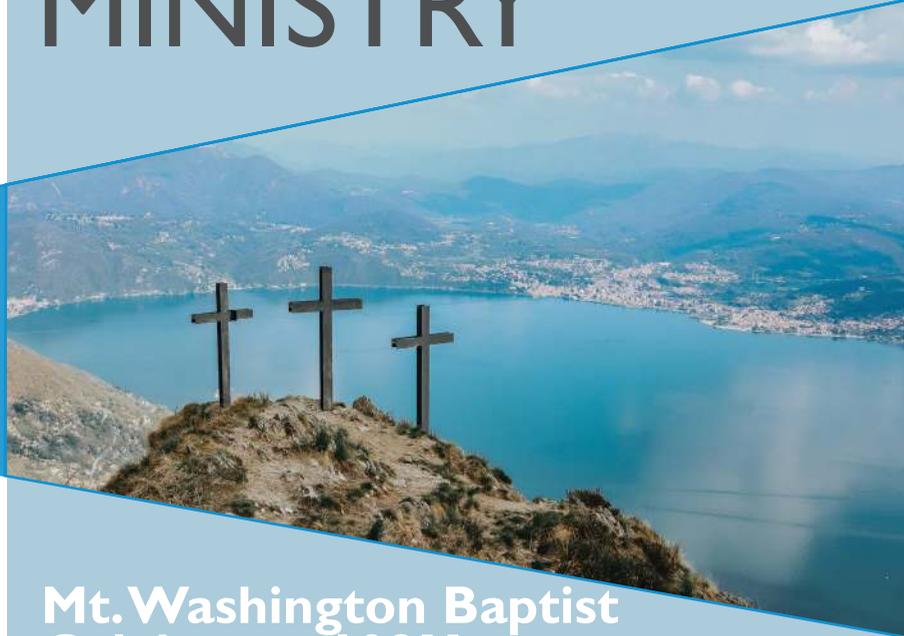




# MISSIONS & MINISTRY

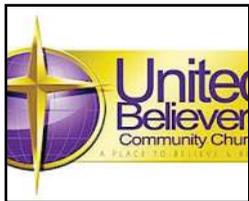


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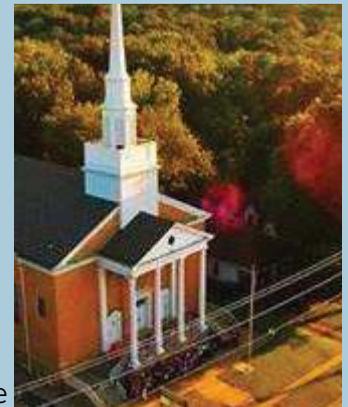
## Mt. Washington Baptist Celebrates 108 Years

by Pastor Brandon Marler

On Sunday, March 3, 1912, thirty people came together to charter **Mount Washington Baptist Church**, electing D. W. Riggs to serve as pastor, meeting above the Mount Washington State Bank on Wilson Road, in Independence. Mount Washington quickly grew to one of the largest congregations in the Independence community, at one time registering nearly one thousand members.

Over the past thirty years or so, the landscape has changed in the northwestern part of Independence. Many changes and challenges have threatened the existence of MWBC, who has faced closure on more than one occasion. But, with each new challenge comes brand new opportunity to revive one of the most historic churches in the greater Kansas City metro area.

Brandon Marler currently serves as Pastor of MWBC. In 2010, Pastor Brandon planted a church in nearby Sugar Creek, MO called Compel Church. Through a series of events, Compel ended up leasing a portion of the struggling MWBC, who had just gone through a tumultuous time in October of 2014. In June of 2017, members of MWBC asked Pastor Brandon to serve as Interim Pastor of their small but faithful congregation. On April 1, 2018, members of MWBC voted Brandon in as Senior Pastor, whereby



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Mt. Washington continued from Page 1

the two congregations became one, operating under the legendary Mount Washington charter.

While church membership is nowhere near the 1,000 mark, Mount Washington is experiencing new life with new purpose. Twenty faithful and dedicated families were added to the membership during the 2018 merge. New



converts are being disciplined and baptized into the family of God. New leaders are being trained and developed for ministry. A new generation of young people is being reached through their NextGen Ministry. Upwards of 50 kids are bussed in and fed, mentored, and disciplined during their Wednesday evening Family Night each week. Adult discipleship is seeing growth as well. The Mount Washington Service Center, the outreach ministry of MWBC founded in 1986, continues to minister to the physical needs of those within the community, feeding and clothing, on average, 70 families per month through their food pantry and clothes closet.

Launching in the summer of 2020 is the Gilmore House, a ministry collaboration between MWBC and Project 58, a ministry founded by Pastor Brandon in 2011 in an effort to combat poverty and homelessness. The Gilmore House, located in the church's former parsonage, will provide shelter and other resources to homeless and at-risk high school students within the Independence School District. The Gilmore House will have 12 beds for temporary housing, provide dinner each night, have laundry facilities available, provide computers for homework, transportation, job training, strength training, and most of all, spiritual and emotional support.



When asked what has caused Mount Washington to survive 108 years, Bert Carney, a member since the early 1960's responded, "Stubbornness! We weren't going to go down without a fight!" That fight, that will power, is what has sustained Mount Washington all these years, and will sustain Mount Washington for years to come.

## Compassionate Leadership by Pastor Darron Edwards

Compassion and leadership – these two words don't often go together in our post-modern culture. There is a belief that we must be strong and tough to be effective and "softness" is often seen as a sign of weakness. This thinking is actually out of alignment with my lived experiences as a leader and goes against some of the best research available to us regarding leadership.

Brian Zahnd, author, captures the "spirit of the age" in this modern re-framing of the beatitudes of Jesus. He shares that the spirit of the age blesses the power-hungry who want to run the world, privilege-protectors, and the clever ones who come up with the best schemes. However, the spirit of Jesus blesses the meek who are willing to trust God, justice-seekers, and the pure-hearted who have no schemes.

how are you are to lead right now? SEE people – Jesus often saw the people that no one else saw. How well do you know your people? Do you actually see the people around you? What about the under-represented people on your team or the people in the "outgroups?" Everyone on your team deserves your attention.

FEEL the pain of others – Jesus didn't simply stop at seeing people, he allowed the situation they were in to enter into his mind and

penetrate his heart. How much of the struggle of life and of others are you allowing into your journey? Is your heart engaged with the struggling and suffering people in your community, or have you effectively shielded yourself from that pain?

HELP people – He saw with his eyes and felt with his heart, but it didn't stop there. He moved with his hands and feet as well. That is the definition of compassion. It is moving beyond empathy and making the conscious choice to be motivated to help people.

Compassionate leaders truly SEE people, FEEL the pain of others, and they HELP.

Think on this: Had it not been for the compassion of Ruth, Naomi would have been abandoned and left without a friend. Had it not been for the compassion of Peter and Paul, the gospel may have never spread so rapidly to the Gentile world.



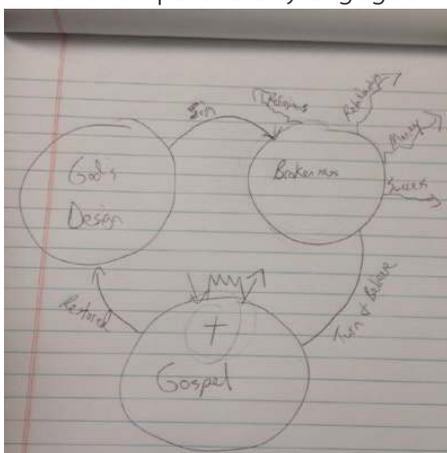
What does this have to do with you, your leadership journey, and

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# Collegiate Ministry Update

## Collegiate Impact by Travis Hamm

At Avila University I have been leading a Gospel Foundation Bible Study, the first of hopefully several Bible studies on this campus. The five-lesson study serves as an introduction to the basics of Christianity. In sharing the redemptive story of the Bible, I use the 3 Circles visual tool, which I reference often throughout the lessons. One week, one student, who has been particularly engaged



with the content and discussion, asked, "What does it look like to 'Turn & Believe'?"

As a college minister, this is the question you long for students to ask. I explained Christ's salvation for our brokenness through His life, death, and resurrection, and shared that we receive this salvation when we turn from being king of our lives and look to Him to be Savior King over every part of our lives. I also provided testimony from my own life and the lives of those around me.

No "turn & believe" decision was made in that moment, and, to my knowledge, no decision has been made since. But I believe God is ministering to this student's heart and the hearts of the others. Last week, at the end of our 5th session, we discussed what - if anything - would be next for our group.

The students quickly requested another Bible study. We will start a Gospel Living Bible Study (how the gospel impacts my everyday life) after their spring break. This will take place in an online format due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

We want our relationships with these students to grow outside the study time as well. Last Thursday evening, my wife and I welcomed some of the Avila students in our home. They loved eating a home-cooked meal, hanging out with our kids, and playing a board game with us. Afterwards they sent text messages expressing gratitude and excited anticipation to come over again.

Praise God for what He is doing! Would you join me in praying for God to continue to work in these students' lives and on this college campus?

## Collegiate Ministry by Carson Conover

The rapid spread of COVID-19 has required us all to think creatively in our ministries. Many local churches—and collegiate ministries—are transitioning worship services and small groups online. I'm doing the same as well.

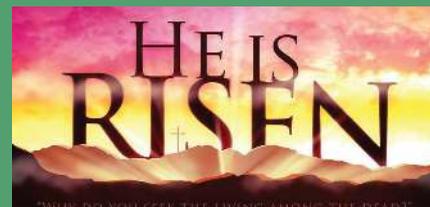
We have collegiate Bible studies meeting at MCC-Blue River on Mondays and Tuesdays and at MCC-Longview on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays. We plan to transition these Bible discussions online using Zoom. This way, we can continue to see God's Word impact the lives of students. (Most of them have lots of extra free time



news & events

## APRIL

April 10 - Office Closed for Good Friday Holiday



## MAY

May 25 - Office Closed for Memorial Day Holiday

May 29-30 - Pastor/Wives Marriage Retreat, Hilton Garden Inn, Indep.

## JOB OPENINGS

Check out all job openings at [blueriver-kansascity.org/job-board/](http://blueriver-kansascity.org/job-board/)

anyway!)

In February, I was joined by 8 MCC students for the MCC Collegiate Conference in Columbia, MO. We spent a weekend together experiencing practical Bible teaching, live musical worship, and break out sessions—all of which centered around the theme: Called, Sent, Go. Hundreds of students were meaningfully impacted from all over Missouri and many responded to the call to live on mission locally and/or internationally.

I'm very excited that one of the student leaders at MCC-Longview has applied as an intern through Collegiate Impact. She'll be

participating in a training process in April, raising support, and then coming alongside me to help reach MCC students and develop new student leaders.

Thanks so much for your prayers and financial support. I'm grateful!

### Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association News

Jennifer Hutton, Editor

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When you are compassionate, you are paying back the compassion that has been shown towards you. However, you are also doing what's in your best interest. When your team members know you care about them as people, they are far more engaged. There is power in your individual acts of compassion. I know it will make a noticeable, sustainable, and transferable difference in your workplace. But more importantly, it will help to soothe a hurting world. Amen.

*"When JESUS saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."  
(Matthew 9:36)*

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."  
(2 Corinthians 1:3-4)*

If you would like to learn more about Pastor Darren Edwards or **United Believers Community Church**, visit [www.BelieveAndBelong.life](http://www.BelieveAndBelong.life).

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### Coronavirus Resources

BR-KC has created a webpage where we are sharing information we think is helpful for pastors and churches. Check it out at <https://blueriver-kansascity.org/resources/covid-19-information/>

Want to know your church's risk level? Here is a great assessment tool

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2020/march-web-only/seattle-churches-stop-meeting-to-slow-covid-19-coronavirus.html>

### Pastor and Wives Marriage Retreat

May 29-30

Hilton Garden Inn, Independence

Join Dr. Rick Marks with the RelateWell Institute as he shares with Pastors and wives about "Enriching Us".

For more details, and to register for this FREE event, visit

<https://pastorwivesretreat2020.eventbrite.com>

### Spring 2020 Grant Report

Gospel Outreach	Replant International	\$ 900.00
	Belvidere Heights	\$ 1,000.00
	Impact Ministries	\$ 2,000.00
	Grace Church	\$ 600.00
Resourcing Churches	Abiding Faith	\$ 3,500.00
	Big Creek	\$ 1,500.00
	Crossroads	\$ 3,500.00
ACT	Restoration House	\$ 3,208.78
	Mt. Washington	\$ 1,883.05
	Palabra Viva	\$ 1,800.00
	Corinthian Missionary	\$ 1,500.00

### Spring Semi-Annual Meeting

has been cancelled

Save the Date  
for the Fall Meeting

October 10, 2020