



## 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Wow! If you would have told me six months ago that we couldn't gather over 50 people together and all restaurants and bars in Washington State would be closed, I wouldn't have believed it! But here we are!

I just read in my devotional this morning from Psalm 139, where David says, "All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." If God knows all our days even before we existed, I'm pretty confident He knew about the spread of COVID-19! It's incredibly reassuring to know in disease, famine, disaster or suffering, our lives are always, and ultimately, in God's hands (Philippians 4:6-7). He is our refuge!

In the weeks ahead, we want to make sure we are communicating as much as possible both the situation in Washington and our response as a church. See below for details.

### Current Plan

As of right now, public gatherings over 50 people are prohibited, with additional health restrictions for those under 50. Government leaders are asking people to stay at home if possible and avoid contact with others. Our plan as a church is to do our part in complying with these requirements and help limit the spread of COVID-19. We continue to monitor King County Health, the CDC and both national and state news outlets to stay informed. Currently, we are not gathering as a church family on Sundays through the month of March and we'll reevaluate next week.

### Sunday Service

Hopefully you were able to join us this past Sunday via our Facebook live stream. A couple things to mention:

- Here is the link to access the live stream each Sunday - <https://www.facebook.com/ArborHeightsCommunityChurch/>
- Even if you do not have a Facebook account, you can still watch the live stream. Just click the link above and scroll down the page to find the videos.
- If you are not able to join us for the live stream at 10:00 am on Sundays, it is also recorded. You can come back at any point later and watch it.
- We are looking at utilizing YouTube for video and streaming services as well. More to come on this later.
- Thank you in advance for your patience as we continue to work out any technical issues. We have not live streamed the music portion before, so amongst licensing and technology issues, we're ironing out hiccups as we move forward. Thank you for your understanding and grace.
- We will continue to use live streaming through the end of March.

## **Ministries**

### **Children's & Family Ministry**

As a reminder, Children's & Family Ministry will be "online" the next number of weeks! During the week, our Director of Children's & Family Ministry, Leah Barham, will send out an email with resources to parents (devotionals, videos, links, etc.). By sending parents online resources each week, each family has the flexibility to study the Bible and worship together on their schedule.

In addition, AWANA is cancelled through April 28<sup>th</sup>, starting back on May 5<sup>th</sup>. AWANA Directors and leaders will be reaching out to clubbers over the next 6 weeks to help complete sections and offer assistance. If you have any questions for Leah, you can contact her at 206-854-1684 or [leah@arborheights.org](mailto:leah@arborheights.org).

### **Community Groups**

As a reminder, our community groups are cancelled for the month of March. While our groups will not be meeting, I want to remind us that our groups are the primary place for care and support in our church. If you have someone in your group who is elderly, or concerned to go out, please connect with them and see how you can help (i.e. groceries, errands, encouragement, etc.). If you have any questions regarding community groups, please reach out to Pastor John at [john@arborheights.org](mailto:john@arborheights.org).

### **Youth Ministry**

As a reminder, similar to Children's & Family Ministry, the Youth Ministry will be going "online" the next number of weeks. If you missed it this last Sunday, Linnea just launched our new youth Instagram page (Arbor Heights Youth)! She'll be putting up online devotionals, Bible studies and a video series. In addition, during the week, Linnea will send out an email with resources for parents and youth. If you have any questions for Linnea, you can contact her at 315-507-1427 or [linnea@arborheights.org](mailto:linnea@arborheights.org).

### **ARK Preschool**

ARK Preschool will be closed until the end of March. We will reevaluate next week based on State restrictions and current health guidelines. If you have specific questions about the preschool and plans, please contact our Director Loretta Kimball at 206-650-1801 or [loretta@arborheights.org](mailto:loretta@arborheights.org).

## **Our Approach to Cancellations**

Rather than cancel all programs and events for an extended period of time, we are taking things on a case by case basis. We are evaluating events based upon criteria such as number of people attending, government restrictions, health advisories, prevention protocols and general wisdom. We will make sure to notify you with adequate time if we decide to postpone or cancel an event or program.

## **Facility**

We were graciously blessed earlier this year with a gift that's allowing us to re-carpet our entire church building basement. Praise God!! This will be taking place from April 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> and be an especially great blessing to our Preschool and Children's Ministry when they return.

## **Transparency**

As of March 18<sup>th</sup> there are no confirmed cases of AHCC members contracting the virus. If any AHCC member is known to be infected with COVID-19, the church body will be notified (privacy for the individual) and appropriate action taken: (1) Have the individual follow the King County Public Health guidelines; (2) Find out what other AHCC individuals or groups the individual may have been in contact; (3) AHCC will contact those persons and refer them to the KC Public Health guidelines for those who may have been exposed. If you believe you were exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19, contact the King County novel coronavirus call center: 206-477-3977; (4) We will pray and follow-up with them.

## **Communication**

During this season we are erring on the side of over communicating. We will continue to provide COVID-19 updates through email, our Facebook page and now our website. We recently added a page to our website, called "COVID-19 Updates" that includes past updates and all future updates. The link is on our homepage at the very top.

We continue to monitor daily the latest news from King County Public Health and relevant news outlets and in regular contact with other area churches to encourage their pastors and evaluate the wisdom of reopening public services given the latest guidelines.

## **Benevolent Fund**

One of the effects of COVID-19 is a downturn in our economy. With restaurants, bars, recreational facilities, theaters, gyms, conference centers, etc. closing for a season, this will inevitably mean loss of jobs for some of us right in our own church. We are first and foremost a family and want to take care of each other as a family.

If God has provided for you during this season, and you feel called, would you please consider donating to our Benevolent Fund? We use this fund to assist those in our church who are walking through a financial difficulty. You can give through one of the four options below.

## **Giving**

A reminder that since we will not be gathering as a church in March, and in person giving won't be available, below are the available options:

1. Mail in your check. The church address is 4113 SW 102<sup>nd</sup> St., Seattle, WA 98146
2. Set up bill pay with your bank. You can contact your bank and ask to set up bill pay with AHCC and they can assist you.
3. Give online at our website under "Give"; [www.arborheights.org](http://www.arborheights.org)
4. Give on the mobile app "Cash App" (you can find it in your App Store on your phone). Our account name is "\$ArborHeights". As a reminder, there are no fees when using a debit card, for the church or you, when using this method.

## **Caring For the Body**

Our Elders and Community Group leaders are reaching out to those in our church and groups to help check-in, offer assistance and pray for one another. Please let your CG leader or regional Elder know if you need help or just someone to talk with through fears and concerns. We're here for each other!

If you missed it in our earlier communication, our Elder-led regions are broken up as follows:

Hal Kimball (North Region) – 206-898-2302; [halkimball@aol.com](mailto:halkimball@aol.com)

Randy Newburn (East Region) – 206-965-0121; [rnewburn@gmail.com](mailto:rnewburn@gmail.com)

Steve Klein (South Region) – 406-945-0612; [snjklein55@gmail.com](mailto:snjklein55@gmail.com)

John Lindow (West Region) – 206-375-2498; [john@arborheights.org](mailto:john@arborheights.org)

Please check the Directory to see which region to you are in. You can also email our main office at [info@arborheights.org](mailto:info@arborheights.org) with any questions or concerns.

## **A Glorious Light**

As you look at church history, it is in the darkest of times the light of the Jesus Christ shines the brightest. Against the backdrop of fear, chaos, panic, self-interest and instability rises the hope, security, love and self-sacrifice of Christ-centered followers of Jesus. Hebrews 12 tells us we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who went before us to live with reckless abandon to follow Jesus. I thank God for these men and women who fought against tyranny, injustice, lies, abuses of power and the degradation of Christ to offer the world an unmistakable glimpse of the glory of God. These people valued Christ and others over their own lives. I pray we don't fade into the background during this hour for our city and nation, but grasp the momentous nature of this season and showcase our victory in Jesus.

Living with Gospel Courage,

Pastor John