



2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Hi everyone! Getting bored yet? Jessica and I mentioned the other day that after this is over, people are going to have the cleanest homes and nicest yards around! Like me, you're probably catching up on all those house/yard projects that you've ignored for years.

I don't know about you, but this time away from the normal rhythms of life has allowed me to do some soul searching. As I'm forced away from my structured daily and weekly schedule, I'm painfully discovering God-replacements that have lodged their way into my life. This is truly a gift and grace of God. I am unearthing comfortable idols and slowly letting Jesus take his rightful place. I pray this time has been equally, if not more, spiritually rich for you.

I feel the need to mention in this season, where there are many things to focus on, two top priorities for AHCC; prayer and innovation. It is crucial that we continue being a praying people right now, seeking God's wisdom and guidance in a land we have not walked. I can't think of a greater moment in our culture since I've been alive where those around us need to see a lot more of God and a lot less of me. Prayer aligns our hearts and actions with God's purposes and plans and that's what we, and our world, truly need.

Secondly, we need to innovate. Now is not the time to stick to "what we've always done." The gospel never changes, but strategies, methods, approaches and plans must if we're going to continue being effective and reaching the lost. As I've said lots of times, we are missionaries, and good missionaries are always studying culture and contextualizing the gospel to it. This is paramount right now. If we need to bring things online, we will. If we need to take risks, we will. If we need to gather in homes, we will. We will never compromise the gospel, but as Paul tells us in 1st Corinthians 9:23:

"I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel."

Let's follow in Jesus and Paul's footsteps and innovate for the gospel.

As in weeks past, please see below for details on our continued response.

Current Situation

As I'm sure you're aware, Governor Inslee issued a "stay at home" order on Monday, March 23rd that does the following:

- Requires every Washingtonian to stay home unless they need to pursue an essential activity
- Bans all gatherings for social, spiritual and recreational purposes
- Closes all businesses except essential businesses

This proclamation will end at midnight on April 6th, unless it has been extended. Therefore, our Sunday gatherings are cancelled through Sunday, April 5th. We will await further information after April 6th and notify you regarding the rest of April.

While our church has been observing social distancing measures, this additional restriction impacts our Sunday service. See below for more details.

Sunday Service

We have now live streamed two Sundays in a row! **THANK YOU** to those who have been helping with sound and projection the last couple of weeks. There has been a lot to troubleshoot and they have done an excellent job. Way to go!!

A couple things to mention:

- We are still working out the details for this Sunday, and not sure what streaming/video platform we'll be using. A follow-up email will be sent out later this week with details.
- We just launched this week our new [AHCC YouTube Channel!](#) Thank you to Ken Winebrener for getting this going. We will begin loading sermons and other content onto this page in the weeks ahead.
- Because of the "stay at home" order, our music will look a little different. We are looking into pre-recording a few songs, but as stated above, will send out more details later this week.

Ministries

Children's & Family Ministry

As a reminder, Children's & Family Ministry is now "online". During the week, Leah has been sending out an email with resources to parents (devotionals, videos, links, etc.). I hope you've been finding these helpful in discipling your children.

In addition, a reminder AWANA is cancelled through April 28th, starting back on May 5th. 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.

Community Groups

As a reminder, our community groups are cancelled through April 6th. While our groups will not be physically meeting, I want to encourage us to connect virtually through phone, text or video. This can be a very lonely time isolated in our homes so please reach out to each other. This could also be a good time to think of ways your group could bless a neighbor or someone in need. If you have any questions regarding community groups, please reach out to Pastor John at john@arborheights.org.

Youth Ministry

If you missed it two Sundays ago, Linnea just launched our new youth Instagram page (Arbor Heights Youth)! She's been putting up online devotionals, Bible studies and a video series. It's been very helpful!

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.

ARK Preschool

ARK Preschool will be closed through April 24th to align with the Seattle School District. We will make sure and inform families before then if the closure continues. If you have specific questions about the preschool and plans, please contact our Director Loretta Kimball at 206-650-1801 or loretta@arborheights.org.

Acts of Mercy

One of the things we want to do while still observing the “stay at home” order is serve our neighbors and community. Here are a couple examples of how that’s being done.

- **Mask Making** – Jill Alvis has launched a mask effort by sewing masks for health care workers, clinics, and those still working in essential businesses. She has rallied around 10 other fellow sewers who are assisting and they’ve currently sent out over 100 masks! Filters within the masks are reusable after being washed which cuts down on waste and timeliness. Jill is using a GoFundMe account to cover the mask costs, filters and shipping. If you have a desire, and skill, to help with this effort, please contact Jill at 206-617-0110.
- **Grocery Gift Cards** – We have a number of people who have purchased grocery gift cards to help those who can’t get out or in financial need. This has been a very practical way to meet tangible and immediate needs. If you would like to help in this way, please give me a call or text at 206-375-2498.
- **Do you have other ideas?** If so, text or call me at the number above. We’d love to hear them!

Facility

As of right now, we are continuing to move forward with our carpeting replacement project in the basement. With the building empty, this has also allowed us to repaint the large children’s classroom. Thanks to everyone who has helped out!

Events

Membership Class

We are cancelling our upcoming membership class on March 4th. If possible, we will reschedule for early summer, but most likely will just offer our normal fall class. If you registered for this class, whether online or at the Connect Desk, we will keep you registered for the next class.

Joint WSCC Good Friday Service

We are still looking into videoing and streaming options for this event. More details to come.

Global Missions Week

Our Global Missions Week is scheduled for May 4th-10th. Randy Newburn, our Missions Director, is currently in conversations with our visiting missionaries, Rich & Elisa Brown. If we need to cancel this event, we are already looking at multiple videoing, streaming and recording options. In addition, attached to this email is an update from the Jorgenson family in Cambodia. We welcomed them last year to pray over their family as they left Washington to serve God overseas. Please be in prayer for them!

Church Camp

Church Camp from August 7th-9th is still a go. I know our summer plans have been severely affected, but I want to encourage you to put this date on your calendar. We'll follow up as the month's progress with details.

CityServe

For those of you not familiar with CityServe, this is where our church serves our local elementary school, Arbor Heights Elementary, by cleaning up the grounds, painting the blacktop and beautifying the school. This will be on August 16th. More details to come as we get closer.

New Spring Sermon Series

After Easter, I will begin a new sermon series called "Mold Me & Make Me – The Life of Joseph". Attached to this email is the sermon graphic. I've wanted to preach on Joseph for years and believe God will have a lot to say to us about his sovereignty, faithfulness and perfect will. Please join us starting April 19th!

Prayer for AHE

Please join us in prayer for our partnership with Arbor Heights Elementary (AHE). As you know, they are closed until April 27th, which means a number of families have been impacted in significant ways. Let's pray for God's protection, provision and revelation during this time. If you have questions about our partnership with AHE, please reach out to Charnell Bolger at charnellbolger@yahoo.com.

Transparency

As of March 25th 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.

Communication

We are continuing to provide COVID-19 updates through email, our Facebook page and 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 in a blue banner at the top of the homepage.

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

As I mentioned in my sermon last Sunday, and in last week's update, one of the major effects of COVID-19 is the hit to our economy. This is no longer an issue "out there" but has hit our own church family. This is a great opportunity for us to practice "carrying each other's burdens" as Galatians 6:2 commands.

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 102nd 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
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

An important reminder that we are heavily relying on our Elder regional structure and community groups during this time for care and connection. 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

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

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

John Lindow (West Region) – 206-375-2498; 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 with any questions or concerns.

A Sure Foundation

It is of great comfort to know that while our world is rapidly changing, God does not. We are told in Hebrews 13:8 that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." We need not lose our bearings and foundation during this time because our bearings and foundation never rested on financial security, government leaders, full cupboards or Sunday gatherings, but on Jesus Christ. While we seek to

adjust to new rhythms, lifestyles and priorities, let us not change our focus on the all-sufficiency of Christ. Let's be a rock for a community and culture searching for something to hold onto.

Standing Solidly on Jesus,

Pastor John