



2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

April 22, 2020

Hi everyone! I have to be honest; I woke up this morning and could not remember what day it was. They're all blending together! I need to get out more. I don't know about you, but this "stay at home" order has certainly given me an appreciation for the little things in life. I'm going to come out of this a lot more grateful than when I came in. I guess it just took a pandemic for God to open my eyes!

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

Current Situation

Yesterday, April 21st, Governor Inslee provided an outline of plans to re-open Washington State. He said the plan will look more like the turning of a dial than the flipping a switch. He also said that while a couple restrictions may be lifted after May 4th, many will remain. The one's considering being lifted are:

- Private construction
- Outdoor recreational activities observing social distancing
- Some elective health procedures

We'll continue to wait for Governor Inslee's official update as we get closer to May 4th.

Sunday Service

We are continuing each week to utilize Facebook live streaming for our Sunday morning service, while posting the video to YouTube by Monday.

A couple things to mention:

- Here is the Facebook link to access the live stream each Sunday;
<https://www.facebook.com/ArborHeightsCommunityChurch/>
- You can also view the service on our [AHCC YouTube Channel!](#) It is not live streamed as on Facebook so will be available later on Monday. Also, you do not need a login to access YouTube so this is available to everyone.
- As usual, the Sunday message is available on our website at www.arborheights.org under "Resources" then "Sermons".

Ministries

Global Missions

Our Global Missions Week is starting on May 4th-10th. While our scheduled missionaries are not able to join us in person, they have sent a number of videos and the opportunity to talk virtually using Zoom. More information will be coming out from each Ministry Leader, or Community Group Leader, in the days ahead as we communicate with children, youth and adults. Please contact our Missions Director Randy Newburn at rnewburn@gmail.com if you have any questions.

In addition, unfortunately, because of the pandemic, all international workers with the Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA) experienced a 10% reduction in funding as of two weeks ago. As you can imagine, this has created an additional hardship for them. Please be in prayer for them, and if you are able, consider giving to our Great Commission Fund.

Facility

We are putting new trim all throughout the basement floor to tie in with the new carpet. We are also installing a new balcony railing next week. Lots being done while we have a vacant building!

Arbor Heights Elementary Need

If you weren't able to join us on Sunday, Leah announced we've given roughly \$2,200 to AHE in grocery gift cards. Way to go AHCC!! We received a kind "thank you" from the school social worker earlier this week that read:

"John, Leah, Charnell and your congregation. Words cannot express my gratitude. Thank you so much for blessing so many of our families with the grocery store gift cards. I am beyond thankful for kind hearts like yours."

AHE is still in need though of grocery gift cards for families at the school. To help out you can:

- Mail in grocery gift cards, or a check, to the church building; 4113 SW 102nd St. Seattle, WA 98146
- Drop gift cards, or a check, off in our mailbox just to the west of the church building on 102nd.
- Give on your mobile phone through Cash App. Our name is \$ArborHeights
- Contribute through our website under "Give". You will need to call the office at 206-935-5714 to let them know your gift is for AHE grocery gift cards.

Please contact Charnell Bolger at charnellbolger@yahoo.com or 206-261-4445 with any questions.

Acts of Mercy

What an amazing church we have! Here are a couple of things we're doing to help meet needs right now.

- **Mask Making** – Jill Alvis and her group are continuing to sew masks for health care workers, clinics, and those still working in essential businesses. Her and her team have sent out over 3,800 masks! In addition, Jill has decided to sell masks to those in our community. Rather than pay for the masks, she is asking the money be used to provide grocery gift cards at AHE. If you

would like to purchase a mask by donating to AHE, or help Jill in any way, please contact Jill at 206-617-0110.

- **Diaper Drive** – Our group of West Seattle Collective Churches has joined together to provide diapers for those in need in the Highline School District. It's diaper drive time! We need all sizes of diapers including pull-ups. You can either purchase diapers yourself and drop them off at the south door entrance of our building, or give financially via one of the ways below in the "Giving" section.
- **Grocery Gift Cards** – Over the last weeks, people have purchased grocery gift cards to help those in our church 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!

Events

Grief & Loss Discussion

This evening, April 22nd, at 6:30 pm, I will sit down with Christopher Ball, Executive Director of Polis Recovery Project, to discuss a biblical perspective on grief and loss. No matter who you are, when this pandemic is over, we will all experience some level of loss and grief. We want to equip us with a biblical process of how to work through our grief and loss in a Christ-honoring way. Below is the Zoom information for tonight's gathering. I hope you can join us!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87337219293>

Meeting ID: 873 3721 9293

Phone #: 253-215-8782

Transparency

As of April 22nd, 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've launched a new all-church text messaging system! Over the next two weeks, you should be receiving a text message from a 5-digit number that invites you to join our new system. Just reply "YES" to the text message to be added. This will allow us to send out quick short messages about events, reminders and updates.

We are continuing to provide COVID-19 updates through email, our Facebook page, our YouTube channel 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.

Benevolent Fund

From the first of March until now, we have received approximately \$8,000 towards our Benevolent Fund. Amazing! We serve a generous God who has formed a generous church. Thank you AHCC for having hearts that so resemble King Jesus!

At the same time, I want to encourage us to still consider giving so we can meet as many needs as possible. Thank you AHCC!

Giving

A reminder that since we will not be gathering as a church in April, and possibly longer, 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.

An Unexpected Open Door

I can't tell you how many times in the past month I have had conversations with fellow pastors, church members, friends and relatives who've had the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus in this pandemic. We have been praying and talking extensively as a church in the past 3 years that God would open doors to share the gospel with our neighbors and friends. Who would have thought He would use a pandemic?

But people have been more open to Jesus during this time than any other in my own lifetime. While I do pray that many of the difficulties were experiencing return to normal soon (jobs, school, etc.) I pray that our community and country never recover from the spiritual awakening many are encountering right now. It is true that a person's spiritual eyes are opened to the reality of God most often in hardship, pain and discomfort. But Jesus wants our hearts and devotion above all else. May the same boldness that energized the first century disciples to testify of Christ in the face of persecution and death surge through our veins as well. Holy Spirit, make us bold!!

Suited Up in Christ,

Pastor John