



2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Hi everyone! Are days starting to blur together for you? I know they are for me. I feel like Bill Murray in Groundhog Day!

While our daily lives are certainly affected by the pandemic, I want to turn our attention this week to an even bigger event; Easter!! What a great reminder that in the midst of monotonous days at home, uncertainty for the future and a barrage of media, Jesus resurrection dwarfs them all.

Jesus resurrection is like a map in a foreign city. When you're not sure where to turn or the layout of the city, a map provides perspective. It is the same with the resurrection; it puts everything else in perspective!

It even takes something as horrible and crushing as death and inverts it. Paul says in Romans 6:9, "we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him." And no longer over us as well! Easter is the death of death. What a message of hope in a timely season!

I pray that God would take our eyes off this global pandemic this week and help us gaze upon the cross an empty tomb. More than jobs, health and social connection, we need the cross and an empty grave. May we experience a deep hope and unspeakable joy this week as we boldly proclaim our new resurrection life!

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

Current Situation

Last week, on April 2nd, Governor Inslee extended the "stay at home" order until May 4th. In addition, on April 6th, he cancelled school for the 2019-2020 school year. These were obviously significant progressions in Washington's pandemic response. We're continuing to monitor changes from government officials but want to encourage all of us to honor the "stay at home" order and do our part as followers of Jesus who "love our neighbors as ourselves".

Sunday Service

Our plan for the foreseeable future is live streaming from our sanctuary. I mentioned last week that online streaming of church services is part of Governor Inslee's "Essential Businesses" list. The provision allows a small number of people to gather at the church building, while observing social distancing, to stream the service.

A couple things to mention:

- We are now including a short “Children’s & Family Ministry Moment” from Leah Barham since there hasn’t been any children’s programming.
- 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 new [AHCC YouTube Channel!](#) It is not live streamed as on Facebook so will be available later on Sunday afternoon or evening. 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

Children’s & Family Ministry

Since school has been cancelled for this year, a decision regarding the end of AWANA will be made in the next two weeks. Stay tuned for more information. If you have any questions for Leah, you can contact her at 206-854-1684 or leah@arborheights.org.

Community Groups

Our community groups are back online! We’re using both phone and Zoom to connect with our groups. Things will obviously look a little different as we focus more heavily on community and connection. Our goal as group leaders is to keep things simple right now with a focus on Scripture and relationships. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor John at john@arborheights.org.

Youth Ministry

As a reminder, Linnea is posting daily devotionals, verses and videos to our new Facebook and Instagram pages (Arbor Heights Youth). If you have any questions for Linnea, you can contact her at 315-507-1427 or linnea@arborheights.org.

ARK Preschool

Since school has been cancelled for this year, a decision regarding the Preschool will be made in the next two weeks. Stay tuned for more information. If you have specific questions about the preschool and plans, please contact our Director Loretta Kimball at 206-650-1801 or loretta@arborheights.org.

Virtual Prayer Nights

We are continuing our virtual prayer nights this Wednesday and next Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Christy Krispin will be leading us through prayer and Scripture. Below is the Zoom information:

Every week on Wed, 2 occurrence(s)

- Apr 8, 2020 07:00 PM
- Apr 15, 2020 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/201307098>

Meeting ID: 201 307 098
Phone #: 253-215-8782 US

Facility

Our carpet replacement project is underway and hopefully will be completed this weekend! Hooray!

Arbor Heights Elementary Need

AHE is still in need 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

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 is in her third week of sewing masks for health care workers, clinics, and those still working in essential businesses. Her and her team have sent out over 750 masks! 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** – Over the last weeks, people 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!

Events

Joint WSCC Good Friday Service

Our WSCC group of churches has put together a pre-recorded Good Friday service that includes songs and Scripture focusing on Jesus sacrifice. The video will be posted on our Facebook page and [YouTube Channel](#) on either Thursday night or Friday morning.

Global Missions Week

Our Global Missions Week, scheduled for May 4th-10th, has been cancelled. In its place, we're looking into Zooming with the missionary couple who were going to join us. Stay tuned for more details.

Transparency

As of April 8th, 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, 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

While I have mentioned it in previous letters, please continue to prayerfully consider giving to our Benevolent Fund. Given the length of the “stay at home” order, and possibility of extension, it is very likely some in our church will need assistance in the months ahead.

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.

Caring For the Body

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

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.

An Indestructible Hope

I hope you can join us this coming Sunday for our Easter service. The title of my message will be “An Indestructible Hope”. It’s ironic because I actually picked this theme back in early February before any of this pandemic had hit. Call me crazy, but it seems God has a word for us to hear! I put a couple short videos on our YouTube Channel to help us prepare for Good Friday and Easter.

I pray you get time this week to reflect on Good Friday and the infinite price it cost God to procure our freedom and new lives. God is so incredibly good! He has risen and we will someday as well. It is our blessed hope!

Trusting in the only Sure Hope,

Pastor John