



2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

April 29, 2020

Hi everyone! Well, I don't know about you, but I've been digging deep into the creative storehouses of my brain to come up with activities for our family. The monotony of staying at home has really hit me this last week and some days I'm itching just to get out and do something different. If you have any fun ideas, send them my way! Hope you are staying healthy!

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

Current Situation

Later this week, Governor Inslee will announce an update to our "Stay Home Stay Healthy" plan. The current restriction is scheduled to end on Monday, May 4th. In an interview earlier this week, he stated that most of the restrictions will continue in place though after May 4th for a season. We're not sure what that season will be, but with all the indicators, I think it's likely it will extend well into May. In King County, there are still between 200-300 new COVID-19 cases per day, which while lower than a month ago, still causes concern.

Given the fact that some states are already beginning the re-opening process, we as a leadership team are currently developing our re-opening strategy. While there are still many unknowns out there, and we'll wait to hear more, we want to be as prepared as possible when things resume. We will communicate the plan to you once we finalize it.

Sunday Service

We pretty much have our Sunday service dialed in now utilizing Facebook Livestream, our YouTube Channel and website. We've heard some concerns from people encountering volume issues each Sunday. We are working on this, but it is a complex problem given people using varied devices to stream and coordinating multiple sound and tech systems. Thanks for your patience as we work out the kinks!

Again, 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](#).

Lastly, 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! Randy Newburn, our Missions Director, has been working hard over the past couple months to prepare for this event, and even had to get creative with this pandemic! Rich & Elisa Brown, founders of IncaLink, will be joining us (virtually that is) to share what God is doing in their lives and ministry.

As you're aware, we partnered with IncaLink about two years ago and have been supporting their ministry to reach the 350 million youth of Latin America with the love of Christ. We have primarily focused on their Casa Elizabeth ministry which houses and serves teen mothers.

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. Here is a brief outline for the week:

- At the beginning of the week, Leah Barham will send out videos from Rich and Elisa for families to watch at home.
- May 6th Wednesday: Pizza Party with the Youth – The youth will be Zooming with Rich and Elisa to hear their testimonies and ministry highlights while all sharing pizza.
- May 7th Thursday: Our community groups will be gathering to do a live Zoom with Rich and Elisa.
- May 10th Sunday: We will be Zooming with Rich and Elisa to hear about their ministry and then watching a YouTube sermon from Rich titled "To Regions Beyond".

We'll be taking a special offering for Rich and Elisa on Sunday to help support their ministry. Please join us in prayer as to what God would have you give.

Please contact our Missions Director Randy Newburn at rnewburn@gmail.com if you have any questions about the week.

In addition, unfortunately, because of the pandemic, all international workers with the Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA) experienced a 10% reduction in funding in early April. 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 wrapping up the basement re-carpeting project this coming weekend. It looks awesome! We also had a new railing installed in the balcony this week. We've wanted to open up the balcony to accommodate our growth, but the previous balcony was too short and a safety liability. Lot's getting done around the building!

Arbor Heights Elementary Need

If you weren't able to join us on Sunday, Leah announced we've given roughly \$3,150 to AHE in grocery gift cards. We've had such a tremendous outpouring of generosity towards the school. Way to go church!! We again received a kind email from the school social worker earlier this week that read:

"There are simply no words.....I am beyond grateful!"

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

Below is an update on the ways we are serving our community right now. Way to go church!

- **Mask Making** – Jill Alvis and her group are continuing to sew masks for health care workers, clinics, and those still working in essential businesses. She, Lori Kimball and their teams have sent out over 7,000 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. Time to get our diaper drive on! This last week we gave approximately 700 diapers! That’s a lot of diapers that take the financial burden off already strapped families. Thanks AHCC! We’re continuing this drive for the next couple months and 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

We had a helpful and meaningful time this past week as we heard from Christopher Ball on processing grief and loss in a biblical way. It was very informative!

Transparency

As of April 29th, 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! Many of you have already received notice of the system via your phone, while others will be notified this week. You will receive 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 almost \$9,000 towards our Benevolent Fund. Only God! Again, thank you for your generosity and care for those in need. It is such an honor to see a church that takes the call to care for one another seriously and evidences the generosity and kindness of Jesus. Thank you!

Giving

If you have missed it in previous communications, because our Sunday service is closed, below are the available giving 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 Unwelcomed Gift of Grace

In the past month, I've noticed the varying views on State restrictions and re-opening plans. I've noticed how each side, those in support of quickly re-opening, and those in support of moving slow and steady, each use pressure and guilt to motivate. There are a lot of "should's" and "ought's" being used by each party to apply pressure to change or adopt the other's strategy. It has forced me (no pun intended) to ask the question, "How quickly do I capitulate to other people's demands out of guilt and pressure?" I wonder how much of what I choose to do is truly borne out of prayer, Scriptural principles and the Holy Spirit's leading versus culture's guilt tactics and group pressure.

I called this "An unwelcomed gift of grace" because while I didn't want it, I thank God He has brought this truth to my attention. It has allowed me to do some heart work and discern how committed am I to His Word, His plans and His will. Mark tells us in his gospel that Jesus was "not swayed by people, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth." May our church, and our lives, resemble the commitment, fearlessness and boldness of Jesus more and more every day.

Planted and Rooted in Christ,

Pastor John