



2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

May 13, 2020

Good afternoon everyone! I looked back and my first weekly COVID-19 update was on March 11th. That's two months ago! I still sometimes have to pinch myself to remind me that this pandemic is real. I think we can all agree that after a vaccination is created, and this pandemic is over, life will never return to the same. Even if businesses, jobs, activities and industries return to the same, we will be forever shaped by this season. My prayer and hope is that we as a church would come out of this pandemic looking more like Jesus, not less.

I do have some sad and unfortunate news to share with you. Our church building was broken into on Sunday night. The thieves stole two TV's and three guitars. They also damaged three interior doors that will need to be replaced. This means a couple things for us:

- We're saddened by the fact that individuals would be so desperate in these times to break into a church building.
- Over the next couple months, we will be working to increase, internally and externally, the security and safety of our building.
- Everyone needs the gospel. It's important to be reminded that we all have stolen before. Whether stealing a physical item, or glory for ourselves, every one of us has been a thief. It is through Christ's shed blood on the cross that we stand innocent, not because we were good law-abiding citizens. Let's not forget this gospel truth.
- People matter more than things. Please join me in praying for these individuals that God would bring conviction to them, they would experience godly guilt, they would mourn their sin and turn to Christ as their savior. More than the replacement of stuff, we want their salvation above all.

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

Current Situation

We are still in Phase 1 of Governor Inslee's re-opening plan and will be through May 31st. I attached his four-phased plan to my email last week and have done the same today. As Governor Inslee did not give any specific timelines on each phase, we don't technically know when Phase 2 will begin, but I've already seen in the news restaurants and businesses formulating their re-opening plans.

As I mentioned last week, we as a Leadership Team are in the process of finalizing our church re-opening strategy and will communicate it to you once it's completed.

Sunday Service

The Sunday service can be viewed at the following links:

Facebook livestream - <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”.

Communion

This Sunday is communion Sunday. I can't think of a better time than in a pandemic to loudly proclaim the healing power of the cross!

Since we obviously can't gather together, here are the options for communion materials:

- We have put individually pre-packaged communion cups, which include a wafer, in a box behind the planter on the front steps of the church building. They will be available as of today.
- Run to the grocery store and grab some grape juice and bread
- If the above two options are not available, use whatever you have at home (bread, fishy crackers, Diet Coke, etc.).

Please have your juice and bread/cracker with you on Sunday morning. Leah will be sending out information for communion for those of you who have kids at home. I will lead us in communion at the end of the message.

Ministries

Global Missions

Praise God for a great Global Missions Week! While I so wish we could have seen them in person, it was a blessing to connect with Rich & Elisa Brown at IncaLink and hear about all God is doing in and through them and their ministry. It reminded me how thankful I am that we've partnered with them as our global ministry partner.

It was unfortunate that we ran into some technical issues with the Zoom call on Sunday morning, but I am doing the same Zoom call with Rich and Elisa this week, recording it, then sending it out next week.

Lastly, thank you so much for your generosity in giving to support IncaLink. So far we've given over \$1,800 as of this last weekend. Only God! Please know that if you were not able to give this week, you can give next week as well.

Please contact our Missions Director Randy Newburn at rnewburn@gmail.com if you have any questions about IncaLink or our missions ministry.

Arbor Heights Elementary Need

Church, we're blowing the socks off AHE!! As of this week, we've given roughly \$6,000 to AHE in grocery gift cards!! We've helped approximately 22 families at AHE. The social worker we connect with has been stunned at the generosity of our church. What an honor to put Jesus on display for our community!

If you would still like to give towards families at AHE, 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 8,000 masks! In addition, Jill has decided to sell masks to those in our community. Rather than pay for the masks, money can be donated to provide either grocery gift cards at AHE or our diaper drive. If you would like to purchase a mask by donating to AHE, or our diaper drive, or help Jill in any way, please contact Jill at 206-617-0110.
- **Diaper Drive** – As of today, we've given approximately 2,200 diapers! Awesome job 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

All-Church Prayer Night

We're picking back up our all-church prayer night this week on Wednesday, May 13th at 7:00 pm and will continue to do so for the next 3-4 weeks. I believe this is one of the most powerful and needed things we can be doing as a church. Steve Klein will be facilitating our time together this Wednesday. After him each Elder will be taking a turn leading during the month of May. Below is the Zoom invite (note you can attend both via video or phone):

Topic: All Church Prayer Night

Time: May 13, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82096442538>

Meeting ID: 820 9644 2538

Phone: 253-215-8782 US

Transparency

As of May 13th, 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

If you have not done so already, please make sure to reply “YES” on your phone to the text message you received a couple weeks ago to be added to our new text messaging system. 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.

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.

Don't Waste the Virus

I mentioned in one of my sermons a couple weeks ago that God does a work in our waiting. Joseph had to wait and we are waiting as well. My fear though is that some of us will waste this time. We will be so preoccupied with “getting through it” we won't look for “God in it”. But always remember this; God never wastes anything.

While we all long to return to a sense of normalcy, jobs, school and activities, God is not idly sitting by waiting for COVID-19 to pass. He is actively wanting to redeem this time to do a fresh work in our souls. In fact, God may be using this time to make some radical shifts and re-alignments in the church and in our lives. I wouldn't call it comfortable, but I would call it needed and necessary, at least for me. I would hate to look back on my life and see a time God passed me by, but I was too busy to notice.

Church, don't waste the virus. Allow God to be God and invite Him into your weeks, days, hours and minutes to show you His plans are better than ours every single time.

Making the Most of the Virus,

Pastor John