



2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

May 27, 2020

Good afternoon! Is it Wednesday? I'm losing track of the days constantly, and especially on a holiday week! It's strange; while everything has slowed down considerably, I still look back over the past two months and wonder where it's all gone. All I know is this week I plan to give myself my second, yes second, haircut during COVID-19. While I would love to bring back the 80's mullet, I don't think my wife and daughters would appreciate that (but it would look cool!).

As with last week, I did want to briefly follow-up on our response to the break-in we experienced on Sunday, May 10th. We are researching and evaluating installing a security system and updating exterior lighting. While we can never fully prevent a break-in from occurring, we can certainly make things exceedingly difficult to burglarize our property. Tanya Gurb, our Safety & Security Coordinator, has been doing an excellent job identifying ways we can enhance and improve our security. Thank you Tanya!

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 until May 31st. While a number of Washington counties have moved to Phase 2, we will hear in the next couple days if King County will do the same on June 1st.

We as a Leadership Team continue to finalize our re-opening plan. As I've mentioned before, our plan will closely mirror the Washington State plan going through different stages of re-opening. At each stage we anticipate loosening restrictions while staying up to date on current guidelines. I will say though that some things will likely change for an extended period of time such as communion, offering and hand sanitizing stations.

Church-Wide Survey

This past weekend, we sent out a survey to gather your expectations and hopes for returning to our facility after our State re-opens. If you missed the email, here is a link to the survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdzkHbnDCtI9RfOHGR0X8jVZFf0n1Igr3txxGLPMF0bXQxCJQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

We value your feedback and appreciate your participation in creating a smooth and wise return to ministry. The survey closes on June 2nd. Thank you!!

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”.

Ministries

Children’s Ministry

In place of our normal end of the year awards night with AWANA, Leah organized a “drive-thru” celebration for clubbers and their families. They stayed in their cars and drove by the front of our building to be congratulated by AWANA volunteers and given their prizes and gifts. Thank you Leah and all the volunteers for doing such a great job!

For those of you who volunteered in AWANA this past year, I know Leah is planning a get together after our church activities resume to celebrate what God has done through this ministry. We also want to celebrate since this is our last year of offering AWANA as a church.

If you have any additional questions about AWANA, or Children’s & Family Ministry, please reach out to Leah at leah@arborheights.org.

Community Groups

If you are not part of a community group, but would like to join one, please let me know. This can be an isolating and lonely time and being in community makes a huge difference. I can be reached at john@arborheights.org or 206-375-2498.

Arbor Heights Elementary Need

What an amazing privilege it’s been to serve approximately 22 families at AHE with grocery gift cards this spring. As of this week, we’ve given \$6,350 to AHE in grocery gift cards!! Unbelievable!!

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.

- **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 8,600 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 2,645 diapers! That's a lot of diapers! 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 are continuing our all-church prayer night this week on Wednesday, May 27th at 7:00 pm and will continue next week as well. Each Elder will be taking a turn leading us in prayer and Scripture. Below is the Zoom invite (note you can attend both via video or phone):

Topic: All-Church Prayer Night

Time: Every week on Wed, until Jun 3, 2020, 2 occurrence(s)

- May 27, 2020 07:00 PM
- Jun 3, 2020 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88680978813>

Meeting ID: 886 8097 8813

P: (253) 215-8782 US

Church Camping Trip

Save the date! While we don't know what this summer will look like, we're still planning to have our annual church camping trip on August 7th-9th at Whispering Pines in Cle Elum. More information will come as we get closer, but if you plan to bring a motorhome, please contact Amy Policarpio at 425-737-4342 before the end of May for details.

CityServe

We are also continuing to plan for our annual CityServe event at Arbor Heights Elementary on August 16th. While it may look a little different than last year, we likely will continue our beautifying of the school grounds and painting the playground area. Please contact Charnell Bolger at charnellbolger@yahoo.com or 206-261-4445 with any questions.

Transparency

As of May 27th, 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 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.

A Time to Be Present

As I was talking with the missionary couple that visited a couple weeks back on Zoom, the wife, Elisa Brown, commented that God has been teaching her to be more present during this pandemic. It’s funny, because I had been thinking of that exact thing in my own life. I have known for a long time that being present has by no means come naturally to me. I’m a “big thinker” kind of person so automatically focus on the future and wide scope planning.

Similar to Elisa though, God has been showing me how many things I miss, and have missed, by not being present. While it is appropriate and right of us to plan ahead, I confess I have done it at the sacrifice of missing what God is doing right in front of me. I have missed out many times on the simple joys of God’s creation and depth of relationship with those closest to me.

I thank God that He is changing me in this time to be more present and attentive to His reality and beauty. I pray you are experiencing the same thing and know the joy of just being with God with no strings attached.

A Man In Need of His Grace,

Pastor John