



2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

May 6, 2020

Hi everyone! Does anyone else feel like they're ready for this quarantine to be over? Maybe you're thinking, "I was ready a month ago!" In this last week, I've started to get a little stir crazy. Some days I've just been itching to get out and take a drive to see something other than my computer screen and office walls. I'm starting to see why solitary confinement is such a horrendous punishment. We need people, we need fresh air, we need the sunshine and we need to move! My trips to Home Depot are becoming a highlight in my week! I might even stop at Starbucks for an ice tea if I'm really feeling crazy!

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

Current Situation

Hopefully you all saw Governor Inslee's announcement on May 1st that our "Stay Home Stay Healthy" order will continue through May 31st. While that's a long time, I don't think any of us were surprised.

At the same time, he rolled out his four phased plan for re-opening Washington State. I have attached the plan to this email for your reference. In conjunction with this phased approach, we as a Leadership Team have begun forming our church re-opening plan. Given the guidelines in Governor Inslee's plan, ours will mirror his to match health restrictions and group sizes. We'll be holding our church re-opening plan loosely though as the Governor's plan did not include specific dates.

Please know our hope and desire is to wisely weigh both individual safety and health with our longing for fellowship and connection. Each of you is missed very much and we want to be together again as soon as possible, but we also want to approach our return with wisdom and prudence. Stay tuned as we'll inform you of our re-opening plans once we finalize them.

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

New Deacon!

I have some exciting news. Rod Moulton has now joined our Deacon Team! Rod has most recently volunteered in our T&T Boys group for AWANA and has an incredible heart to serve and use his gifts. Over the years, Rod has also jumped into helping with different administrative and logistical needs around the church facility, which made him a natural choice to join our Deacons. I'm really excited to have Rod on the team and know he will serve AHCC well. Please join me in congratulating Rod!

Global Missions

Our Global Missions Week has officially begun! Below is a description of the different things occurring this week:

- At the beginning of the week, Leah Barham sent 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, play games 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".

In addition to the virtual events above, we're sending out different YouTube videos to ministry groups of Rich and Elisa sharing their testimonies and introduction of their ministry.

We'll be taking a special offering for Rich and Elisa on Sunday to help support their ministry. You can give towards this offering in one of the ways described in the "Giving" section below. Just mark "Rich & Elisa" on the notes. 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 this week.

Lastly, 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.

Arbor Heights Elementary Need

God is soooooo good!! As of this week, we've given roughly \$5,450 to AHE in grocery gift cards!! We have helped approximately 22 families at AHE. These are families who've lost jobs or undergone financial difficulty during this pandemic. What a blessing to be able to help so many people! Thank you AHCC for your generosity and radical love!

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** – Our group of West Seattle Collective Churches has joined together to provide diapers for those in need in the Highline School District. As of today, we’ve given approximately 1,800 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 next week on Wednesday, May 13th at 7:00 pm. 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. 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 6th, 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

A reminder we've launched our new all-church text messaging system! All of you by now have received notice of the system via your phone from a 5-digit number that invites you to join our new system. If you have not done so already, please 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. Once again, God is soooooo good!! Thank you for your continued generosity and sacrificial gifts.

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 Choice

One of my favorite movies is The Shawshank Redemption. It's the story of a man who was falsely accused of murder, and sentenced to life in prison, but wound up escaping in the end. In one of the scenes, the main character, played by Tim Robbins, is talking with his good friend "Red", played by Morgan Freeman. "Red", who is serving a 40 year sentence, struggles with hope and tells Andy it's hopeless to think of life outside the prison walls. But Andy says it comes down to a simple choice; "Either get busy living or get busy dying." That quote has always stuck with me.

I feel it's the same with our time during this pandemic and our relationship with God. Either we get busy pressing in deeper to who God is and who we are in Christ, or we get busy with everything else. As Andy says, it simply a choice we make. God is using this pandemic to invite us deeper into intimacy and closeness with Him. Each day he beckons me to let go of my fears, anxieties and worries and trust Him a

little more learning how faithful and all-powerful He really is (Proverbs 3:5-6). I pray we welcome His work and come out on the other side of this looking more like Christ than when we came in.

Satisfied in Christ,

Pastor John