



2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

June 10th, 2020

Good afternoon! Isn't this physical distancing and quarantine life extremely difficult? I don't know about you, but I am missing everyone a great deal. I am incredibly thankful for Zoom, but there is something about physical presence and interaction that cannot be replaced. It's almost like we were designed for human interaction ☺. I can't wait to get back together!!

Along with our weekly COVID-19 update, I wanted to give you a brief update on our response to the church building break-in on May 10th. Thankfully, insurance covered our losses so we'll be able to replace the stolen items. Tanya Gurb, our Safety & Security Coordinator, is continuing to research a new alarm system for our building. Lastly, we are looking to install some new exterior lights to enhance visibility and light up dark areas. Please also join us as we pray for the thieves and their salvation.

Current Situation

As most of you already know, King County was approved on June 5th to move to Phase 1.5. You can find more information about Phase 1.5, and which specific businesses and activities are allowed, [here](#). While this move to Phase 1.5 did open some things in our county, it did not change the original news given to churches on May 27th.

If you missed last week's letter, I mentioned that Governor Inslee did a news conference on May 27th where he modified the original reopening time for church gatherings. He made two significant changes, allowing churches, who meet all other stated requirements, to:

- **Phase 1** – Hold outdoor services on the churches property (or immediately adjacent property if explicitly permitted by the local jurisdiction) with up to 100 individuals, excluding church staff.
- **Phase 2** – Hold indoor services at a place of worship with up to 25% capacity or 50 individuals, whichever is less, (excluding church staff).

While it may appear as though we could begin meeting immediately outdoors in Phase 1.5, the Governor's Office issued an additional list of requirements that need to be met in order for us to open in a safe and prudent manner. Our Elders and Leadership Board are currently reviewing these requirements, purchasing necessary supplies and writing up policies to comply with guidelines. This is going to take us some time to research, write up and sufficiently respond to the requirements. As we get a clearer picture of our exact timeline, and how specifically it will look, we will let you know.

We will make sure to use all communication channels available, our website, Facebook page, Instagram, Email and Text to keep you informed and clear on next steps.

I know the hardest thing throughout all of this has been our inability to gather together on Sundays. This has been a season of grieving and loss as we mourn friendships, conversations and fellowship. Our hope and prayer as a church is that we can meet together as soon as possible while observing the necessary guidelines.

Sunday Service

As before, the Sunday service can be viewed at the following links:

Facebook livestream - <https://www.facebook.com/ArborHeightsCommunityChurch/>

On Mondays, after the Sunday service, on our [AHCC YouTube Channel](#).

Lastly, the message is available on our website at www.arborheights.org under “Resources” then “Sermons”.

Ministries

Children’s Ministry

Leah has taken your comments from the survey and continues to assess creative ways to serve the kids of AHCC. She is also meeting with local Children’s & Family Ministry leaders, our Portland Field Office and others to collaborate on reopening plans for children’s ministry.

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. Also, our groups will be taking a break over the summer to allow time for family, vacations and rest. As we get closer to the fall, more plans will come out about groups and sign ups. If you have any questions about our community groups, I can be reached at john@arborheights.org or 206-375-2498.

Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry kicked back up their mid-week gathering on Friday nights at 7:00 pm via Zoom. While not the same as meeting in person, it’s been a great way for youth to connect, laugh together and grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Linnea has some new things to share with you this coming Sunday, so I won’t steal her thunder! She can be reached at linnea@arborheights.org if you have any questions.

Preschool Ministry

I can’t believe how fast it’s gone! Preschool graduation is next Thursday the 18th. Wow! They will be celebrating the graduates with a drive-thru at the church building. It’s been an amazing year and were thrilled to send them off as brand new kindergartners. If you have any questions about the preschool, or would like to volunteer in any way, please reach out to Loretta Kimball at loretta@arborheights.org or 206-650-1801.

Arbor Heights Elementary Need

Arbor Heights Elementary has one more week of school left and ending on Friday, June 19th. What an honor it's been to serve approximately 22 families at AHE with grocery gift cards this spring. As of this week, we've given \$6,700 to AHE in grocery gift cards!! Amazing job AHCC!

I want to challenge us to continue giving to these families as their needs continue and their jobs have not returned.

If you would 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 3,600 diapers! Way to go AHCC! We're continuing this drive for the next month 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!

Transparency

As of June 10th, 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.

Events

Youth Sunday

I'm excited to tell you that this coming Sunday is our annual Youth Sunday. We devote this Sunday to highlighting our youth ministry and our commitment as a church to love, serve and minister with youth. We will hear from some youth, get an update from our Youth Director Linnea and hear a message for youth. I hope you can join us as we celebrate the next generation!

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 ASAP!

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.

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.

The Only Real Refuge

In Psalm 142:4 David says, "I have no refuge." This Psalm is written as David is being chased by Saul in the desert. A time of fear, confusion, stress and struggle where David looks around and realizes he has no sanctuary, no safety, no place of true rest. Sounds ominously familiar? Then in verse 5 David says, "I cry to you, O Lord; I say, "You are my refuge.""

David discovered in the wilderness what we all must discover; the only real refuge in our world is in Jesus Christ. Refuge is not a place, but a person. Many in our world are turning to Netflix, government, political leaders and themselves to find refuge. I pray we would turn to Jesus and find real rest. True rest that gives us the ability to live without fear, be a transformative presence in our culture and boldly proclaim the name of Jesus. We can do this of course because our refuge is not in personal safety or comfort, but in the finished work of Jesus Christ. I pray you rest in Him today.

Resting in THE Refuge,

Pastor John