



2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

June 17th, 2020

Good afternoon! I just saw today that this has been the coldest June since 2012. I've begun many days in shorts only to end in jeans. We need some sun! Hopefully it looks like we'll be getting some in the next few days.

I also want to say an early "Happy Father's Day" to you dads and grandads out there! I hope you get an opportunity to spend time with your sons and daughters, and grandkids, this weekend and reflect on the joy of God as our heavenly Father. He is the father we all need!!

As usual, please see below for our weekly coronavirus update.

Current Situation

Wow! Things continue to change at a rapid pace. King County was approved on June 5th to move to Phase 1.5. It appeared this would last until the end of June, but on the 15th, just 10 days later, the County applied to move to Phase 2. You can find more information about what this move will mean, for business, retail, restaurants, etc. [here](#).

What this move to Phase 2 means for our church is that, when approved, we can hold indoor services with up to 25% capacity or 50 individuals, whichever is less, (excluding church staff).

25% of our sanctuary capacity is roughly 37 people (excluding staff). Our Leadership Board and Elders are meeting this week to finalize our reopening plan and how we will structure the Sunday service to accommodate the guidelines. If King County is approved to move to Phase 2 this week, we will make sure and communicate our plan and potential timeline for reopening.

You'll want to make sure and check all our communication channels, website, Facebook page, Instagram, YouTube Channel, Email and Text to stay informed and clear on reopening plans. We will be issuing a document on our website, on the COVID-19 page, and on Facebook, outlining guidelines and expectations for returning to the Sunday service. We will also be producing a video and posting it to Facebook and YouTube.

Hang in there! God is good even when things take longer than we'd want. Reopening is on the horizon and we hope to be back together soon.

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

As we come back together as a church on Sundays, and during this initial season, we’ve decided to return as families and not offer children’s programming. We’ve chosen this for two main reasons. First, when we return, we feel it’s important to be together as a church community since we’ve been apart for over three months. We’re doubling down on community and connection. Secondly, it will be incredibly complicated and challenging to enforce current COVID-19 guidelines with children. Wearing masks, physical distancing and restroom procedures are already difficult to follow for adults, now imagine kindergartners and 1st graders!

Depending on King County moving into Phase 2, Leah will follow up with parents in the next week to describe what Sunday morning will look like and answer any questions. Please know we love your kids and committed to serving them well.

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

Community Groups

As usual, our community groups are taking a break for 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

Hopefully you enjoyed our Youth Sunday last weekend. It was a blessing to hear Linnea cast vision for the future of our youth ministry and Hayden Barham share about the realities of being a Christian teenager in our world. If you didn’t get a chance to hear Hayden, please check out the service online. You don’t want to miss it!

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 is also looking to pick back up the Student Leadership Team over the summer. If you have any questions youth related, she can be reached at linnea@arborheights.org.

Preschool Ministry

Preschool graduation is tomorrow the 18th in the afternoon. Wow! We are excited to welcome families, many of whom are from our local Arbor Heights community, to celebrate the graduates with a drive-thru at the church building.

I also want to say a huge thank you to all our preschool teachers for their incredible work this past year. They have had to come up with creative and innovative ways to teach during the pandemic and done it with enthusiasm, joy and love. Thank you Loretta and the team!!

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

Great news! We've been in touch with Arbor Heights Elementary and can continue providing grocery gift cards during the summer! While school ends this Friday, the 22 families at AHE still need assistance and we can give it. God has blessed us in so many ways; let's continue being a blessing to others!

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 additional ways we are serving our community right now.

- **Mask Making** – As many people have returned to work and counties reopen, our mask making efforts are closing down. Jill Alvis and her group still have masks available, so please reach out to her at 206-617-0110 if you have a need. Throughout the last three months, we have sent out over 8,600 masks! Unbelievable! Thank you Jill, Lori Kimball and all who helped!
- **Diaper Drive** – Thank you so much AHCC for the outpouring of generosity and support to families in need of diapers. World Vision has closed our local distribution center so this opportunity ended earlier this week. Through April and May we gave over 3,600 diapers! Way to go AHCC!
- **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 17th, 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

All-Church Virtual Prayer Night

We're having our next all-church virtual prayer night on Wednesday, June 24th at 7:00 pm. Our world is in desperate need of prayer. Whether for the impact of COVID-19, fear and worry, racial division or general societal unrest, we need prayer. Please join us! Below is the Zoom meeting information:

Topic: All-Church Virtual Prayer Night

Time: Jun 24, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83176439904>

Meeting ID: 831 7643 9904

Phone: (253) 215-8782

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 Chain Breaker

You don't have to look very far right now to hear the hundreds of political, societal, racial, financial and philosophical solutions to our world's problems. Most everyone wants to share their two cents about what the issues are and how we should fix them. Yes, I think we can all agree there are significant issues and problems in our country that need to be addressed. No doubt this is clear and requires we face

these issues head on with compassion, understanding and a true desire for long-term change. May God give AHCC the wisdom, perseverance and courage to do this hard, but needed, work.

But we must constantly remind ourselves that the only real way for people to change is through the chain breaking power of Jesus Christ. Chains of fear and anxiety don't ultimately get broken because life returns to normal; chains get broken because our faith in Jesus Christ becomes bigger than our fears and worries. Chains of anger don't ultimately get broken because we get what we want; chains get broken when we hate our sin and want what Jesus wants. Chains of injustice don't ultimately get broken because institutions are reformed; chains get broken when Jesus reforms our hearts and we love like Him.

Laws are needed, reforms are needed, policies are needed, but what's needed more than anything is the resurrection power of God that takes what's dead and makes it alive. We don't fundamentally need political power, legislative power or even human potential power, we need resurrection power. Above all the other things our world needs right now, it needs Jesus. Jesus is where everything always begins and ends.

Worshipping the Only Real Chain Breaker,

Pastor John