



What's Happening at AHCC?

July 29th, 2020

Good afternoon! It's been three weeks since my last update and a lot has happened. But first things first; are you melting in this heat? We Seattlelite's are not used to this 90 degree weather. Hope you have a fan (or an AC unit)!

I also wanted to say that I had a great vacation the past two weeks enjoying some time with my family and over on the coast of Washington. The weather was perfect but I'm glad to be back!

A big thank you as well to Matt Alvis and Ted Van Dyken for filling in for me on Sundays. They did a great job! Thanks guys!

As usual, please see below for our ongoing coronavirus response and AHCC happenings.

Current COVID-19 Situation

Our Sunday service has been reopened now for a full month. While wearing a mask has been a little cumbersome, I believe being together far outweighs any temporary discomfort. Thank you for honoring the guidelines and putting other people before yourself. Jesus is glorified in His church unifying in self-sacrifice.

As I'm sure you all know, COVID-19 cases around the country continue to increase, setting national records on a number of days. While Washington has not had to roll back to a previous phase, new requirements have been issued in the past three weeks. I've attached an updated letter to this email dated July 28th from Governor Inslee with the most recent changes. There were no changes made to churches that modify our current plan and ministry.

Earlier in the summer, I anticipated being in Phase 3 by the fall, but the way things are looking, I think we will be in Phase 2 longer than expected. This means we have had to rethink some of our original plans for the church and ministry in the fall. We as leadership and staff have already been discussing potential plans for the fall and will continue to do so throughout the month of August. We will communicate falls plans in more detail towards the end of August. As has been the case though, all our plans at this time are held loosely.

During the pandemic, our goals are as follows:

- Remain faithful to Jesus and His mission no matter the circumstances
- Honor our State health guidelines as an act of submitting to God and loving our neighbor
- Continue to advance the vision of AHCC ("Christ-like disciples growing in head, heart and hands through everyday gospel living")

- Prioritize personal interaction and connection in a safe way

I believe it is imperative for us as a church body to remain connected in this time and not give in to isolation, withdrawal from authentic community and disconnection from God's church. While things will look very different, as Hebrews 10:25 tells us, we need to encourage and spur one another on towards our collective calling in Christ Jesus.

Please join us in prayer as we seek the Holy Spirit's wisdom and guidance in the next season ahead.

Sunday Service

As a reminder, being in Phase 2 has meant our church can hold indoor services with up to 25% capacity or 200 individuals, whichever is less, (excluding church staff). Our 25% capacity is 37 people.

So far our two services, one at 8:45 AM and one at 10:30 AM, have been working well. Cleaning crews are having enough time to clean in between services and we're getting a consistent pattern down.

As a reminder, face coverings are required in all public spaces, including outdoor spaces when it's not possible to be 6 ft. apart. We are continuing to require face coverings worn at all times while on church property, both inside and outside the building.

I also want to remind us of the following things:

- You need to sign-up each week for a Sunday service on our website at the link below:

<https://www.arborheights.org/covid-19-update-page/>

This allows us to track numbers and stay under the 37 person requirement. It also allows us to follow-up with people if we have a confirmed case of COVID-19. Note you need to separately sign-up each member of your household; you cannot combine them into one registration.

- If you have not joined us on a Sunday yet, you will need to review the "Sunday Service Reopening Guidelines & Procedures" document on the webpage referenced above or on our church Facebook page. This document details the specific procedures we're following at our Sunday service and expectations we ask you to follow to safely return.
- Please review the "COVID-19 Return Plan" on the webpage referenced above. This document details our plans over the next several months on how we'll slowly phase back into all normal church ministries and operations. Again, this plan is held loosely and is subject to change.

Please continue checking our website and Facebook page for additional information and updates.

In addition, while we're now gathering as a church at our building on Sundays, we're still offering our service on the platforms below. Please note we will **only** be streaming the 10:30 AM service.

- Facebook livestream - <https://www.facebook.com/ArborHeightsCommunityChurch/>
- On Mondays, after the Sunday service, on our [AHCC YouTube Channel](#).
- On Sunday afternoon, the message is available on our website at www.arborheights.org under "Resources" then "Sermons".

Communion

This coming Sunday is communion Sunday. I am once again looking forward to being spiritually nourished by the power of the cross.

As we've done since we reopened, when you enter the south entrance doors, there will be a Ziploc bag for you to take with an individually packed communion cup and wafer. Please use the Ziploc bag to dispose of your cup when done.

If you are joining us online, please participate with one of the options below:

- 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.).

If online, please have your juice and bread/cracker with you towards the end of the sermon. If you have children, communion is a great way to bring your family together and explain what Jesus death and resurrection mean.

Ministries

Children's Ministry

As a reminder, during this initial reopening season, we've decided to return as families and not offer children's programming.

As part of the family service, we're doing the following things:

- Providing an activity pack for each child (one for the service and one to come home)
- Having a children's "ministry moment" during the service by our Director Leah Barham
- Having a shorter service time (1 hour)
- Incorporating parents and children in the service (prayer, announcements, etc.)

Leah has also been leading a summer small group of 5th graders who are transitioning to our youth ministry in the fall. Besides playing some fun games, and just having a generally great time, they're learning a new Bible study method called SOAP. You will be hearing more about SOAP as I'll soon be releasing a YouTube video of it to the church.

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

Community Groups

As a reminder, our community groups are taking a break for the summer to allow time for family, vacations and rest. More details and plans will be coming out about groups and sign ups in mid to late

August. If you have any questions about our community groups, Pastor John can be reached at john@arborheights.org or 206-375-2498.

Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry will soon be switching back to Wednesday night gatherings at 7:00 pm via Zoom for a time of games, conversation and Bible study. If your son or daughter has not joined, please reach out to Linnea at linnea@arborheights.org to get the Zoom information.

Linnea and Russ Barham are also working on picking back up the Student Leadership Team to begin meeting in person in a safe and healthy way. If you have any questions youth related, reach out to Linnea at the email above.

Arbor Heights Elementary Need

We are continuing to provide grocery gift cards to AHE during the summer. While school already ended, the 22 families at AHE still need assistance and we can give it. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity. Thank you!

To give, 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.

Transparency

As of July 29th, 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

Church Camping Trip

It's here! The church camping trip is on August 7th-9th at [Whispering Pines](#) in Cle Elum. Cle Elum is in Phase 3 which allows us greater flexibility in recreating together. You can register for tent camping [here](#). Please check out the Whispering Pines website for information on their COVID-19 guidelines and procedures. We will need to make sure and honor the Phase 3 restrictions regarding face coverings and physical distancing. If you have any questions about registration or the camp, please contact Leah at info@arborheights.org or 206-935-5714.

CityServe

We are continuing to plan for our annual CityServe event at Arbor Heights Elementary on August 16th. Currently, we are only allowed to have 10 people on the premises; five in front doing landscaping and five in the back painting. We also would like to do some cleanup in ARK Park. Stay tuned as more details will be coming in the next two weeks. Please contact Charnell Bolger at charnellbolger@yahoo.com or 206-261-4445 with any questions.

Outdoor Movie Night

We are planning to have our outdoor movie night on Saturday, August 29th at 8:00 pm in ARK Park. This has been a fun tradition the last couple of years so put it on the calendar and more details will follow in August.

Giving

If you have missed it in previous communications, below are the available giving options:

1. Give at our new Giving Station in the back of the sanctuary
2. Mail in your check. The church address is 4113 SW 102nd St., Seattle, WA 98146
3. 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.
4. Give online at our website under "Give"; www.arborheights.org
5. 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.

Holy Disruption

Like many of you, during this pandemic, I've been praying God would use the uncertainty and trial of this time to open people's eyes and hearts to the reality of the gospel. I've been overwhelmed with how much He has responded.

I've had spiritual conversations with family, friends and neighbors in the past 4 months that I don't think would have happened unless God pulled the proverbial rug out from under each of us. I don't say this in a cold-hearted and calloused way, as I myself have been confronted with my own God replacements, but as those who've fallen in love with Jesus, we long for others to experience His freedom, grace and truth. I continue to pray, in alignment with God's jealous love, that people's idolatries, empty wells and spiritual bankruptcy would be revealed to them and we, the church, would be there to point them to the God who quenches all thirst. Let's join God in His holy disruption for our community and His glory.

Worshipping the Only True God,

Pastor John