



What's Happening at AHCC?

August 12th, 2020

Good afternoon! Hope you've been enjoying this beautiful weather! One of my highlights this summer has been my daily walk. It has been so good to get out and enjoy the fresh air, beautiful Puget Sound water and sunshine. The only drawback is my dog barking at everything she sees! It has given me a great chance to soak in God's beauty and pause in my day to reflect on Him and what He's doing in my life. I pray you as well are getting moments to step out of the COVID chaos and hear God's still small voice. It's what we so badly need!

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

COVID-19 Update

While COVID-19 cases in Washington State hit a peak a couple weeks ago, a number of counties, including King, are now showing coronavirus cases per 100,000 people decreasing. This obviously does not mean things are permanently getting better, but it is a move in the right direction. It affirms the importance of wearing a mask when necessary and practicing social distancing.

As mentioned in my last update, I think it's safe to say we'll be in Phase 2 longer than expected. 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'll communicate fall plans in more detail towards the end of August/early September. As has been the case though, all our plans at this time are held loosely.

To focus us on our mission, I want to remind us again of our goals during the pandemic;

- 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

Through the power of God's Spirit, we must vigilantly fight against weariness and complacency in this time. We must fight against the urge to check out and withdraw from community and connection. Let's step into relationships, even if only over the phone or computer, for our good and God's glory.

Sunday Service

As a reminder, our first service this coming Sunday has moved from 8:45 AM to 9:00 AM. The second service is still at 10:30 AM. Please remember to sign up on the [COVID-19 page](#) on our website.

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 inside the church building and outside when unable to be 6 ft. apart.

If you have not joined us on a Sunday yet, you will need to review the "Sunday Service Reopening Guidelines & Procedures" document on the COVID-19 page 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 continue checking our website and Facebook page for additional information and updates.

Lastly, 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".

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.

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

Community Groups

We are currently evaluating our groups for the fall and assessing creative ways to meet and connect. We believe staying connected is vital for the spiritual health and development of our church. More details and plans will be coming out about groups and sign ups in 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

Linnea is on vacation for the next week and will be returning on Sunday, August 23rd. If your son or daughter is in middle or high school, invite them to join the youth group on Wednesday, September 9th at 7:00 pm as they kick off the fall. More details to come in the weeks ahead. If your son or daughter has not joined the group before, 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.

SOAP Bible Study Video

If you missed it, check out the [video](#) I made a couple weeks ago on YouTube about a Bible study method called SOAP. SOAP stands for Scripture, Observation, Application and Prayer. This is a great tool to help you dig into God's Word and grow in your love for Him.

Arbor Heights Elementary Need

We have the privilege, this coming Sunday, to hear from Rosslyn Shea, AHE social worker, on the impact our grocery gift card initiative had on the school. Don't miss it!

We are continuing to give towards grocery gift cards at AHE so 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 August 12th, 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 Prayer Night

Come join us on Tuesday, September 15th at 7:00 pm at the church building as we kick-off the fall with a time of prayer. We will be meeting at the church building in the basement Fellowship Hall. Masks will be required and we'll observe 6 ft. of social distance.

CityServe

If you would like to participate in CityServe, please let us know ASAP. We'll be serving Arbor Heights Elementary this coming Sunday, August 16th from 12:30-2:30 pm. We're doing both landscaping and painting projects. Please contact Charnell Bolger at charnellbolger@yahoo.com or 206-261-4445 with any questions or to sign-up.

Outdoor Movie Night

Join us on Saturday, August 29th at 8:00 pm in ARK Park to watch Paddington together. If you haven't seen it, it's a very cute movie about a little bear and his exciting travels! Bring a chair, blanket and 6 ft. of space between you and others!

Giving

God has blessed AHCC beyond measure in this COVID-19 season. We are meeting budget and keeping our expenses at a minimum. God continues to demonstrate his faithfulness in exceedingly amazing ways. Thank you Jesus and thank you church!

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.

COVID Confessions

Throughout the pandemic, in a time of disruption, I have noticed God use this season to unearth my sin. I have not only read many times, but been putting into practice, 1st John 1:8-9. Like David in Psalm 51, I have felt God "wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin." While not pleasant, I am so thankful for Jesus graciously exposing my idolatry and pointing me to His work on the cross. I pray this season brings you to your knees in humble submission and confession before God so that "times of refreshing may come".

In Christ,

Pastor John