



What's Happening at AHCC?

September 23rd, 2020

Hi everyone! Wow! 2020 continues to be the year of all years. Thankfully many of the wildfires are dissipating and hopefully will continue to do so as our rainfall increases. I don't know about you, but each week I have this sense that another national or worldwide event is going to occur. Not sure what I would do if I didn't know God was sovereign over all!

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

COVID-19 Update

While new COVID-19 cases have dropped significantly since mid-July, they have fluctuated back and forth between 200 and 550 in the last month. Washington State is looking for this number to stabilize well below 500 before moving counties to new phases. The State also looks at the rate of newly diagnosed cases per 100,000 people. Their goal is 25. Today we are at 73. Hopefully we can lower this number in the weeks ahead.

One of the factors contributing to uncertainty and hesitancy on reopening counties is our entering the flu season. I want to encourage all of us to continue staying home if we're not feeling well, washing hands often, wearing masks and getting proper rest. Let's do our part in minimizing sickness.

While we continue to follow guidelines and safety measures, we are adamant in our mission to be Christ-like disciples growing in head, heart and hands through everyday gospel living. While we may be limited, the Holy Spirit is not. This fall we are planning events, seeking innovation and hitting our knees in prayer.

Sunday Service

Our two morning services, at 9:00 and 10:30, continue to go well. As I mentioned last time though, I would ask two things of us to help make them even better.

First, please make every effort to sign up on our [COVID-19 page](#) as early as possible during the week. This helps us get our numbers figured out and organized for the morning.

Secondly, would you consider moving to the 9:00 am service? God has been so good to us in the last couple months by bringing new visitors and families who usually come to the 10:30 service. If you call AHCC your home, would you consider coming to the 9:00 am service to make room for visitors at the 10:30? Thank you!

Also, 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”.

RightNow Media

We launched our new online Bible Study tool, [RightNow Media](#), about a month ago and I couldn’t be more excited! It has a plethora of discipleship materials right at the tip of our fingertips.

You should have received an email from RightNow Media about a month ago. If you did not see it, check your “Spam” folder. If it’s not there, please contact our office for assistance. If you did see the email, click on “Get Started” to create an account and off you go! I pray this resource helps you grow as you follow Jesus.

Ministries

Children’s & Family Ministry

Need a break or a distraction for your kid(s)? Can't kick the soccer ball, play Barbies or Legos one more time? Bring in a fresh face! Sign up for a "Driveway Distraction with Ms. Leah!" At an agreed upon time, Leah will hang with your child for an hour. She'll even bring things to do! Activities will be based on your level of contact comfort.

This coming Sunday, Leah is launching a new resource for families called “country of the month”. Through our partnership with IncaLink, they’ve provided a monthly packet for families that includes information about a country, games, activities, recipes and devotionals. This is a great way to learn about different countries, try some new recipes and participate in God’s work in South America.

Leah is also doing a “Mom’s Night In” on Tuesday, September 29th at 8:00 pm at the building. The moms will follow COVID guidelines and enjoy some time catching up and connecting.

Lastly, one of the things we’re looking at this fall is a Marriage Class. Marriage help, resources and equipping was one of the top requests in our class survey this past spring. More to come on this as we get into the fall.

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

Community Groups

We've officially launched our groups this fall! Some are meeting in person at the church building while others meet via phone and Zoom. If you're not in a group, I want to strongly encourage you to join one as staying connected relationally is one of our main goals this season. You'll find hope, friendship, challenge in your walk with Christ and the support you need to remain faithful to Jesus. Please reach out to Pastor John at john@arborheights.org or 206-375-2498 to get connected!

Youth Ministry

The Wednesday night youth group kicked off a couple weeks ago with pizza, pop and goody bags for everyone. I wish I could have been there!! Besides some great fun, games and laughter, they'll be going through the book of Acts this fall. If your son or daughter has not connected with Linnea to get the Zoom information, please let her know asap at linnea@arborheights.org.

Also, some very exciting news, Linnea and Russ Barham launched our Student Leadership Team last week! And they're meeting in person (with masks and social distancing)! The students will be spending the fall learning about their gifts and abilities and how to use those for God's purposes.

Preschool

ARK Preschool started back up in person this past week on Monday, September 14th. The kids we're obviously excited and parents were thrilled to get a break at home! While still challenging with observing COVID-19 guidelines, we are grateful we get the opportunity to educate and show the love of Christ to kids this school year. If you have any questions about our preschool ministry, please email Loretta Kimball, our Director, at lkimball@arborheights.org.

Women's Ministry

The ladies are invited to join a bible study starting October 6th. The study will be Beth Moore's "Living Free by Praying God's Word." The group will meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Zoom. The study guide can be purchased at Lifeway.com (hard copy is recommended). The group is encouraged to come to the first meeting with Lesson 1 completed if possible. Contact Joy Newburn at newburn316@gmail.com for the link or with questions.

Transparency

As of September 23rd, 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

Fall Membership Class

Interested in taking the next step in connecting with AHCC? Join us on Saturday, November 7th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm for our fall Membership Class. You can register online [here](#) or sign up in the foyer on a Sunday morning. A decision is still waiting to be made whether the class will be in person, on Zoom or both.

Westside Prayer for the City Event

In a time of division and polarization, we're gathering as westside churches on Saturday, October 17th at 3:00 pm outside Grace Church to pray for unity in Christ. Many of our West Seattle Collective Churches will be there along with some in the Shorewood, Burien and Normandy Park area. We'll spend our time collectively praying and also breaking into small groups to pray for our city and country. Please join us for this important event!

Baptism Sunday

This is one of my favorite Sundays of the year! Join us on Sunday, November 1st to celebrate Christ's redeeming work and new life. If you, or your child, have not been baptized before, please let either Pastor John or Leah Barham know so we can follow-up with details. Because of COVID-19, we're doing pre-recorded baptisms that will be shown on November 1st. We're pre-recording the weekend of October 16-18.

Fall Women's Event

Join the ladies online this Saturday, September 26th at 9:00 am for "Venture", our northwest fall women's conference. Come hear from Jen Schepens, Director of the C&MA short-term ministry Envision, as she shares two messages throughout the morning. You'll also hear from some of our field international workers through videos and interviews and have some breakout sessions with discussion questions and times for fellowship. You can find out more information about "Venture", and register, [here](#).

Finance Update

If you have missed the financial update in our bulletin each Sunday, we continue to be in strong financial shape. Only God! Our expenses are well below our budget for the year and our giving remains healthy each month. Next month is our 2021 budget planning so join us in prayer as we seek God's wisdom for His future plans.

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.

Strength in Weakness

Whether its job loss, sickness or just the monotony of COVID days, maybe you like me have felt "weak" during this time. Like all trials that God takes us through, one of His main goals is to humble us and

expose our frailties. I have to be honest; I don't like this. I don't like my frailties being exposed. I would prefer to believe that I'm capable and strong in all things.

But I am slowly learning that God really is displayed in my weaknesses. That God humbles me to help me. To show me the barren and dry wells I keep running to for satisfaction and comfort. I am discovering, like Paul, that Christ shines the brightest when I am the weakest. Let's be a people this fall who welcome God's humbling work to show off his redemptive power.

Broken but Blessed,

Pastor John