



What's Happening at AHCC?

October 21st, 2020

Good afternoon! Each day I wake up I am so grateful to have Jesus in my life. I can't imagine trying to navigate, make sense of and orient this world without the God who made it. Yet, that's what millions of people do each day as they wake up and walk into their days. How heart breaking! It makes me think of Jesus who, as he looked over Jerusalem, wept at seeing how people had forsaken and abandoned God. May we have the same heart as our Savior and mourn for those on the westside who grope around in the dark blind to their need for Christ.

Check out all the information below to stay up to date on our ongoing coronavirus response and AHCC happenings.

COVID-19 Update

If you missed it in the last letter, Governor Inslee recently opened up a number of new activities including: libraries, youth/adult sports, movie theaters, restaurants, bars, wedding receptions, retail events, real estate, outdoor recreation and water recreation facilities. You can find out more information about the changes [here](#).

While more things did open up, new COVID-19 cases continue to rise. We hit a low around early September, but since then, cases have continued to increase. This is to be expected to a certain degree as we now enter the flu season. A great resource for up to date information is the [Washington State COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#). The dashboard shows COVID-19 statistics in both data and graphical form and is updated continuously.

Given the increase in COVID-19 cases, and being flu season, I want to stress the importance of wearing our masks, social distancing, taking good care of our sleep and diets and staying home if we're not feeling well. I think it's important as followers of Jesus that we model both the honoring of our government guidelines and love for our neighbors.

Church Survey

By now you should have received, via email, our fall church survey to assist us in our COVID-19 response. The survey should take you less than five minutes and provide us valuable information to make important decisions for fall and winter ministry. Thank you for filling it out!!

Sunday Service

For those of you still considering coming to one of our two Sunday morning services, please consider coming to the 9:00 am service as that one still has lots of room.

As a reminder, 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](#) 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 & 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.

If you missed it earlier in the month, Leah launched 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. The packets were emailed out to families and available in the church lobby. We’ll learn about Peru in November.

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

Community Groups

Looking to find connection and community this fall? Our groups have officially launched and are meeting both in person at the church building and via phone and Zoom. If you’re not in a group, let me know at john@arborheights.org or 206-375-2498 and we’ll get you connected! This is a difficult season to walk alone so don’t wait to get plugged in!

Youth Ministry

If your son or daughter would like to join the Wednesday night youth group, please connect with Linnea at linnea@arborheights.org to get the Zoom information. It's a great time of fun, games and growing in Christ. Also, if you have any interest in volunteering in the youth ministry, please let Linnea know. I know she would appreciate any help offered!

Over the last 8 months, you may have noticed youth helping in different parts of our Sunday service. This is by design! We believe youth are not only a core part of the church, but play an integral role in helping us grow as disciples and reach our community for Christ. You will see them in even more roles in the future. Let's invest in our youth AHCC!

Preschool

ARK Preschool has been open in person for over a month now and serving around 25 students! Please continue praying for safety and health for both students and teachers. If you have any questions about our preschool ministry, please email Loretta Kimball, our Director, at kimball@arborheights.org.

Women's Ministry

Joy Newburn launched a new women's Bible study yesterday, October 6th. The study curriculum is 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). Contact Joy Newburn at newburn316@gmail.com for the link or with questions.

Missions

Get ready for our Great Commission Day on Sunday, November 29th! We'll celebrate what God is doing across the globe, hear a story of transformation and have an opportunity to financially support our Great Commission Fund. More information coming soon!

Events

Tubular Treats From Six Feet

Our annual Trunk or Treat is going to look a lot different this year! We're trading car trunks for canopies and candy bowls for tubes. Bring the family on October 31st from 6pm to 8pm outside the church building. Volunteers and various supplies will be needed. Check your bulletin each week for how you can help!

Baptism Sunday

This is one of my favorite Sundays of the year! Because of COVID-19, and families being unable to gather, those interested in baptism have decided to wait until families can be together to take this important step. Depending on COVID, we'll evaluate baptisms in the spring. We're still going to focus on baptism on Sunday, November 1st to celebrate Christ's redeeming work and new life.

Marriage Class

Do you ever feel like your spouse is speaking in a foreign language? Do you know when to talk and when to clam up? Do you long to experience a stronger relationship and better communication in your marriage? Join us for “Love Talk” with Drs. Les & Leslie Parrott on four Monday nights in November (2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd). The class will offer wisdom and insights for applying biblical truths to your relationship, as well as provide practical communication skills to draw you closer together. You can attend in person or on Zoom, and all class materials will be provided. Sign up on the website under the Calendar event or at church.

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.

Hidden Creek Church Food Distribution Volunteer Opportunity

Are you looking for a way to tangibly serve those in need this fall? Join us on Wednesday, November 4th as we take a group down to Hidden Creek Church (HCC) in Olympia to volunteer at their weekly food distribution program. HCC feeds between 100-150 people per week through their program. Stay tuned as we’ll announce more information this coming Sunday.

2021 Budget

As mentioned in the last letter, please join our staff, volunteer leaders and Leadership Board in prayer as we take the next couple months to plan and adopt our 2021 budget. We are seeking the Lord’s will and plans for 2021 trusting His guidance and wisdom. Our 2021 budget will be officially adopted in mid-December.

Benevolent Fund

Are you going through a difficult time financially? Lost a job during COVID or struggling to pay bills? Let myself, or one of the Elders, know and we can help you with our Benevolent Fund. Through generous gifts during the past year, our fund has adequate resources to assist you with your needs. We’re here as Christ’s body to support one another!

Transparency

As of October 21st, 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.

The Joy of God’s Forgiveness

I’ve been going through 2nd Chronicles in my morning devotions and reading Solomon’s dedication prayer for the new temple. In 6:36, Solomon says, “When they sin against you – for there is no one who

does not sin...". When I read this, I was reminded of 1st John 1:8 which says, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

It's so easy to deceive ourselves into believing we're generally good people with a couple of bad habits to break. But the truth from Solomon and John, inspired by the Holy Spirit, is that we are sinful people who have a propensity to lie to ourselves. The Apostle John teaches us though that there is freedom and wholeness when we daily confess our sin before God and remind ourselves of Jesus finished work on the cross. Rather than run from and hide our sin, like Adam and Eve in the garden, may we freely confess our sin before Jesus and experience the joy of a pure heart (Psalm 51)!

Forgiven in Christ,

Pastor John