



What's Happening at AHCC?

October 7th, 2020

Good afternoon! Do you have their fall decorations up yet? We put ours up a couple weeks ago and even have the pumpkins on the front porch! We're making pumpkin muffins, lighting pumpkin candles and carving pumpkins this Saturday night. It's sweater weather!!

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

COVID-19 Update

There's change! Governor Inslee had a press conference yesterday, where, while not allowing counties to move to new phases, did open 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](#).

Unfortunately, the changes yesterday did not affect churches. We are continuing in Phase 2 of the Safe Start Plan, but as always, looking for ways to safely open up each area of ministry.

While new COVID-19 cases have dropped significantly since mid-July, they have fluctuated back and forth between 200 and 800 in the last month. The 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. Yesterday we were at 79. Hopefully we can lower this number in the weeks ahead.

I have to admit it has been frustrating not having a timeline for moving to new phases, but I believe it has allowed us a needed opportunity to put our full trust in God's timing. He is not only sovereign over each hair on our head, but when counties and cities can reopen. He is God over all!

Church Survey

We're in the middle of preparing an all-church survey to be issued in the month of October to assist us in our COVID-19 response. It will be coming out in the next few weeks via email. Keep your eyes peeled!

Sunday Service

Our two morning services, at 9:00 and 10:30, are going well and we continue to see new faces. Praise God!

I would ask us to continue making 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.

Also, our 9:00 am service still has plenty of extra room. If it's possible for you, please consider moving to the 9:00 am service to make room for visitors at the 10:30. Thank you!

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 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 & 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 this past Sunday, 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.

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

The Wednesday night youth group has been going for about a month now and off to a strong start. Students are connecting, laughing and growing in Christ. 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, if you have any interest in volunteering in the youth ministry, please let Linnea know. I know she would appreciate any help offered!

Linnea and Russ Barham also launched our Student Leadership Team a couple weeks ago. They're meeting in person (with masks and social distancing), learning about the mission, vision and values of the youth ministry and making plans for the fall and winter. Please pray for these young leaders to surrender to God's plans for their lives and use their gifts and talents to serve Him!

Preschool

ARK Preschool has been open in person for about a month now and serving around 25 students! We're taking each week as it comes making adjustments and changes to continue complying with COVID-19 guidelines while effectively educating and loving the kids. 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

If you missed it two Sundays ago, we brought back our monthly Missions Highlight on the fourth Sunday of each month. We showed a [short video](#) as a reminder of our calling to serve those both in the neighborhoods and nations. We look forward to our next highlight on October 25th!

Transparency

As of October 7th, 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

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!

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 this week for how you can help!

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.

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.

Great Commission Sunday

Join us on Sunday, November 29th as we celebrate our role in taking all of Jesus to all the world. We'll hear a message focused on our work across the globe, watch a video showing the life transforming power of Christ and have a chance to financially support over 700 international workers through the C&MA. Save the date!

2021 Budget

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. This is obviously a unique year given the coronavirus, so we need Holy Spirit empowered faith, discernment and wisdom. Our 2021 budget will be officially adopted in mid-December.

Christ is Lord

I just started the book of Romans this week in my morning devotion. I read right at the outset Paul's words defining Jesus saying, "who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord." I don't know about you, but I needed to hear that Jesus is Lord in this season. Not only with COVID-19, but with all the political and racial division in our country.

As we near the election on November 3rd, the polarization and vitriolic attacks are everywhere and you can literally feel the tension in the air. But as disciples of Jesus, we are different; we believe not that Caesar is Lord, but Jesus is Lord. Our peace, hope and security don't come from who's in office, but who's on the throne of our hearts. May we not join the masses this season in criticizing, demeaning and slandering political candidates, but vote from our convictions knowing the destiny of our lives, country and world rest in the perfect hands of Jesus.

Christ is Lord!

Pastor John