



What's Happening at AHCC?

November 12th, 2020

Good morning! Our last update was on October 21st and a lot has happened since then! All warm weather has moved out and freezing cold weather has moved in. I hope you're getting excited for Thanksgiving and an opportunity to thank God for His many gifts in 2020. It's important to give God thanks not only in the good years, but even more so in the fallow years!

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

COVID-19 Update

Wow! Things have changed quite a bit with COVID-19 in the last three weeks. Over the last week, Washington State broke two new records for the highest daily case count since the pandemic began. As of yesterday, Washington State had 127,000 cases and 2,595 deaths. There are 10.5 million cases in the US and 241,000 deaths. Health authorities are now saying we're in the midst of not just a COVID-19 uptick, but a spike. There are 100,000 cases a day happening nationally.

Unfortunately, this is not just the last two weeks, but cases have continued to rise since the early part of October and are accelerating at a rapid rate. Our Leadership Team will be closely watching trends and cases and recommendations from health officials to determine the best course of action in the months ahead.

If you did not see it last time, a helpful 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.

I again want to stress the importance of doing our part in wearing our masks, social distancing and staying home if we're not feeling well. All data indicates we are in for a tough winter and it's important that we follow in Jesus's footsteps by putting other people before ourselves.

Church Survey

Thank you for your participation in our fall COVID-19 survey! The survey closed on November 3rd and the results showed we're heading in the right direction with our management and leadership of COVID-19. If you're interested, I have attached the results to this email. Our Leadership Team is currently reviewing the results and adjusting course where needed or necessary.

Sunday Service

While we continue to offer two services at 9:00 am and 10:30 am, we're evaluating going to one service and offering an overflow room in the Fellowship Hall with Facebook Livestream. If we decide to go this direction, more information will be provided with dates and logistics.

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

We've had some really fun family events over the last three weeks. We had a great family activity night in mid-October where we gathered in the basement to carve pumpkins. Then, about two weeks ago, we served our neighborhood by offering our "Tubular Treats from Six Feet" event on Halloween. It was so much fun (and cold)! We served roughly 200 people in our community with candy, laughter and the love of Christ through encouragement and connection. Pictures are available on our church Facebook page. Thank you to everyone who made this possible!

Leah also launched our second "country of the month" with Peru last Sunday. If you missed it, copies of the Peru packet are in our church lobby or Leah can email you one.

Leah is also looking to do a family event in December so stay tuned for more information. If you have any additional questions about Children's & Family Ministry, please reach out to Leah at leah@arborheights.org.

Community Groups

Feeling isolated and alone this fall? Hoping for connection and community with fellow Christians? Join one of our community groups meeting around West Seattle and the south end. Our groups 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!

Youth Ministry

God is doing some great things in our youth! 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. They've been meeting for a couple months now, and while meeting only online, they've grown relationally and owning their walk with Christ.

Look for Linnea this coming Sunday as she'll be giving a Youth Ministry update at both services highlighting what God is doing in and through our youth and plans for 2021.

Lastly, one of our values at AHCC is for youth to know they're not on the JV team, but on the all-church team. They not only have a place at AHCC, but are called to set an example for us and do their part in owning our vision of making Christ-like disciples growing in heads, hands and heart through everyday gospel living. One of the key ways we can create this sort of culture is by continuing to intermingle generations. If you are a parent, adult or grandparent, who would like to invest in youth, please let Linnea know. We're all in this together!

Preschool

ARK Preschool has been open for almost two months now and serving around 27 students! Parents are loving it! We also have an opening for a teaching position. If you, or someone you know, is interested, please let Loretta Kimball know at (206) 650-1801 or kimball@arborheights.org. Please continue praying for safety and health for both students and teachers.

Women's Ministry

Joy Newburn launched a new women's Bible study in early October with seven women. The study curriculum is Beth Moore's "Living Free by Praying God's Word." The group meets 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 if you're interested or have questions.

Missions

As you know by now, during this holiday season, we've decided to support Hidden Creek Church as they lost access to their church building in August due to an arson fire. We had the joy of sending six people down last week to their weekly food distribution program to help serve roughly 100 people in their community. We also have asked our church to prayerfully consider donating to their fire relief fund or food distribution fund. If you would like to do this, you can give either in person at our Sunday service or through our mobile giving platform "Cash App". Just specify the gift is for Hidden Creek Church Fire Relief or Food Program.

Secondly, 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. We just found out earlier this week that they'll be a matching grant up to \$100,000 for the Great Commission Sunday. Please consider giving to double your impact!

Events

Marriage Class

Our fall marriage class, “Love Talk”, with Drs. Les & Leslie Parrott, started on November 2nd and continues through November 23rd. If you couldn’t attend the class, but interested in reading the book and watching the videos, please let Leah Barham know. The class can be accessed on our church’s RightNow Media subscription and Leah can assist with viewing.

Mom’s Night Out

Join the ladies in our church this Friday night, November 13th at 7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall to encourage, fellowship and connect. Having kids at home is not required, but masks are. No need to RSVP as well.

Finance Update

God continues to bless our church abundantly!! We’re currently meeting our budget and on track to meet our annual budget. We also remain committed to keeping our expenses low and practice prudence in the midst of COVID-19. We’re also evaluating our 2021 budget this month and adopting it in mid-December. Join us in prayer to trust God as our provider and steward His resources for His glory.

Benevolent Fund

Are you going through a difficult time financially? Lost a job during COVID-19 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 given 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 November 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.

Going the Distance

I’ve been reading about a lot kings lately. I’m going through 2nd Chronicles in my morning devotions and if you’ve read it before, it details the life of one king after another. In surveying the book, I’ve noticed an uncomfortable pattern; many kings started faithfully serving God, eradicating evil in the land and calling the people back to wholehearted obedience. But in the latter part of their lives, they fall away. And not just fall away a little; they fall completely in the other direction. They wind up worshipping false gods, set up idols in the land and encourage the people to rebel against God’s authority.

It would be easy for me, and I think all of us, to tell ourselves, “That wouldn’t happen to me.” But I’m sure these kings said the same thing to themselves. The truth is, we’re not superheroes; every one of us is capable of giving into our sin and running away from God. The author of Hebrews tells us, “See to it brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living

God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today” so that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”

Our world is in a very hard season right now where it’s easy to grow spiritually weary, disconnected and discouraged. But like the author of Hebrews says, and unlike the kings of Judah and Israel, let’s encourage one another continuously and point each other to Jesus, so as not to be deceived by our sin and turn our backs on our Savior. Jesus gave his all for us; it’s only fitting we give our all for him.

Held Fast by His Grace,

Pastor John