



TEMPLE BETH SHALOM
JOYFUL · PERSONAL · ACCESSIBLE

High Holy Days Subcommittee Report

Temple Beth Shalom COVID-19 Task Force

These recommendations are based on the prevailing conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic in Central Ohio as of August 2020. These recommendations are in effect through at least November 1, 2020. The Task Force will review its recommendations in late October, at which time potential changes may be considered based on the course of the virus.

Background Information:

- Temple Beth Shalom (TBS) has been conducting services online since Friday, March 13, 2020.
- Most Friday night services have around fifty families watching and participating on Facebook Live and the TBS website.
- The Temple has been conducting Drive-In Shabbat Services in May, June, and July, and these have been well received and attended. Approximately 150-250 people have attended each of these drive-in services. These services allow congregants to gather in their cars in the parking lot and safely enjoy a service together.
- As the number of COVID-19 cases in Ohio has remained high, worship in the building itself is considered high-risk, and certain activities inherent in our communal worship experience (singing, spoken, communal prayer, onegs) are also considered high-risk.

Outcomes:

- The High Holy Day season of 5781 will largely take place online, with opportunities for socially distanced programming.
 - ◆ Neighborhood Shofar Blasts
 - ◇ On the day before Erev Rosh HaShanah -- Thursday, September 17, 2020 -- there will be scheduled neighborhood shofar blasts. Participants will stay in their cars but have the opportunity to hear the blast of the shofar.
 - ◆ Worship Services
 - ◇ A majority of the High Holy Day services will take place on Facebook Live, simulcast on the Temple website.
 - ◇ Many of the services will be pre-recorded, allowing for the best possible picture quality and sound.
 - ◇ Sharyonim Choir has already begun recording pieces that will be stitched together for the "Traditional" service on Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur.
 - ◇ Music will mostly be pre-recorded and integrated into the recorded and live services.
 - ◇ The Temple will purchase the "Visual Tefilah" version of *Mishkan HaNefesh* to be used online.
 - ◇ Service times will be reduced for all High Holy Day services.
 - ◇ The rabbis may conduct some "live" services online either from the bima or from the Temple patio.
 - ◇ Torah reading honors will be recorded in congregants' homes and added to the service videos.
 - ◇ Other honors and readings will be recorded at home as well.

- ◆ Drive-In Services
 - ◇ Shir Shirim Mostly Music Services for Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur will be drive-in
 - People will need to pre-register
 - Services will be pre-recorded in case of bad weather
 - Musicians will be spread out on stages
 - Services will also be live streamed
 - ◇ Yizkor Memorial Service on Yom Kippur afternoon will also be drive-in
 - People will need to pre-register
 - Service will be pre-recorded in case of bad weather
 - Musicians will be spread out on stages
 - Service will be live streamed
- ◆ Self-Guided Tashlich Services open for a few hours on Rosh HaShanah afternoon
 - ◇ Using two access points to the creek (one on TBS side, one on the All Saints side), congregants will have the opportunity to do a personal Tashlich with no gathered service.
 - ◇ Congregants can bring their own bread to cast into the water
 - ◇ Self-guided Tashlich sheet will be available at both locations
 - ◇ Meditative music may be provided at both locations
- ◆ Rosh HaShanah Virtual Kiddush
 - ◇ In lieu of a Kiddush luncheon, congregants will be invited to send in a video of them wishing the community a “Shanah Tovah.” These videos will be edited together and played in the middle of the day on Rosh HaShanah.
- Zoom Schmooze Room
 - ◆ To create a sense of community, there will be the “Zoom Schmooze Room.” It is a place to connect with the TBS community and wish each other a Shanah Tovah!
 - ◆ These will be open on Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur.
- High Holy Day Food Drive
 - ◆ There will be a truck parked at TBS during designated times for people to safely drop off their food donations.
- Other experiences via zoom
 - ◆ There will be community discussions and classes (the Yom Kippur Book Discussion, the Yom Kippur afternoon speaker) that will happen virtually. Zoom links will be sent out ahead of time, and pre-registration for these events is encouraged.