

FAQs-High Holidays 2020

Where are the links to Zoom and YouTube for services?

- The YouTube and Zoom links will be emailed to you the morning of Erev Rosh Hashanah, Friday 9/18, to decrease the chance of “Zoom Bombing” (“an unwanted, disruptive intrusion, generally by Internet trolls and hackers, into a video conference call.” -- Wikipedia).
- Or you can go to www.YouTube.com and type “TBSMahopac” in the search bar to find our YouTube Channel where the video will play at 10:30am

Why are the Main Services prerecorded and not live?

This enabled us to show both Rabbi Sarah and Cantor Jake on the bima. It also means that should we experience technological issues with Zoom, you can still see and participate in the service. Finally, it means that people who aren’t comfortable using technology can still access services on Public Access TV.

I've never used Zoom, help!

- In an internet browser window, type www.support.zoom.us for instructions and videos showing you what to do.
- Still stuck? Call or email the Temple office and we will connect you with a member of the Technology Task Force who can guide you through. Be in touch as early as possible so we can make sure to get you help.

How do I get a Machzor (High Holiday Prayerbook)?

A photocopy with the prayers for the Main Service will be delivered to your home in the High Holidays Gift Bag. An email will be sent out in the next week with a link to download a full machzor or sign up to have a hard copy delivered to your home in the Gift Bag.

Why aren't we doing services like that other synagogue (in person with fewer people, outdoors, in the parking lot, at a Drive-In Movie Theater)...

- Each organization is proceeding slightly differently, depending on their resources and population.
- Most congregants responded in a survey that they are not comfortable with in person services
- The TBS COVID-19 Response Task Force’s medical advisor strongly cautioned against indoor gatherings, especially since the beautiful Temple Beth Shalom Sanctuary doesn’t have windows that open and has an HVAC system that would need a complete overhaul
- Outdoor services are cost prohibitive, requiring tent rental, chair rental, portable toilet rental, and rental of electronic equipment.

- Our parking lot is not a good location for outdoor services, because it is quite noisy with traffic sounds and sirens from the nearby Fire Station and Police Department. It's also a security concern.

Why should I (or someone else) pay synagogue dues if there are not services to attend?

- We are committed to offering a high quality, meaningful holiday experience for our members this year, under extraordinary circumstances.
- Dues and donations support the synagogue's activities year-round and will make sure we will still be here for High Holidays 2021/5782 and well beyond. Your continued support is the key to Temple Beth Shalom being here for you now and in the future.
- We still have to maintain our building and property even if we cannot use them right now. And of course, we must support our hard working and committed Rabbi, staff, and teachers, as well as Cantor Jake.
- We are continuing to offer high quality education to the children and adults of our community.
- Important life cycle events continue, and our community is blessed with our Rabbi and the loving support of all during simchas and challenging times.
- We encourage you to understand your dues and donations as an investment in a community institution, rather than a transactional, fee-for-service payment.

What about the Food Drive?

- St. John's Food Pantry has requested only monetary donations. They, along with all Food Pantries, are experiencing an increase in use due to financial hardship during the pandemic. Please donate to St. John's Food Pantry or another local organization.

•Donate online

•Checks can be mailed to:

St. John the Evangelist Food Pantry

221 E. Lake Blvd.

Mahopac, NY 10541