



BETH SHALOM CONGREGATION
COLUMBIA, MD

Indoor Beth Shalom Services – Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What time will these services begin on Fridays and Saturdays?

Services start promptly at 6:00 p.m Friday evening. **Pre-registration is required.**

Q. Where will the service be located?

Services start promptly at 6:00 p.m Friday evening and 9:30 a.m. Saturday morning. **Pre-registration is required.**

Q. How will seating be arranged?

Seats are pre-set in pods of two, three, four, and five seats each, with one pod of eight seats. Each pod is six feet away from other pods and ten feet from the Rabbi and Cantor (who will be singing unmasked). When registering, please list all family members who are to be seated with you in your pod.

Q. Can I sit with my friends?

Yes, as long as everyone is comfortable sitting together. Please be considerate of other's desire to social distance.

Q. Will we be allowed to walk around?

During services, please remain in your chosen seats so you don't disturb others. After services, you can walk around to exchange greetings.

Please do not congregate in the lobby since its size limits adequate social distancing. The office and back hallways are closed to all but clergy, staff, and authorized individuals. Feel free to gather with appropriate social distancing outdoors, weather permitting. Whether indoors or outdoors, please show respect for others who may prefer greater social distance than you do, and continue to observe appropriate social distance with those not in your social bubble.

Q. Can my children use the playground?

For safety, children must be supervised by a parent or other responsible adult (not including the security guard) whenever they are outdoors. All children using the playground must remain masked. Please refrain from overcrowding on the playground.

Q. Will Prayer books/Siddurim be provided?

The *Sim Shalom* for Shabbat and Festivals prayerbook/siddur will be provided on your seat. Please leave your prayer book on your seat following services.

For those who do not yet read Hebrew, our transliteration booklet, *S'fatai Tiftach*, that includes almost all the Friday evening songs we will sing in both English letters (transliteration) and translation, will be available to pick up in the lobby. Please return it to the basket in the lobby following services.

Q. Do you have *yarmulkes* (kippot) for use?

At Beth Shalom Congregation, a headcovering (e.g., a *yarmulke*/kippah) is required in the building for all males and encouraged for all females. We encourage you to bring your own headcovering of choice. There will be kippot available, if needed, which you should take home with you for future use. Please do not return used kippot.

Q. May I borrow a tallit on Shabbat?

We will have tallit to use on Shabbat morning for your use. Please return to the rack when you finish services. We encourage you to bring your own if you have one.

Q. Will there be instrumental music at Friday Night services?

On the first Friday of the month, we will have our Shabbat Unplugged service with Cantor Apt playing the guitar since the service ends prior to candle lighting. This will continue through September 3, 2021, after which she will switch to using a piano.

Q. Do all participants need to pre-register to attend?

Yes, everyone needs to pre-register to provide an accurate headcount.

Q. Must all participants wear a mask during the service and while in the building?

Yes.

Q. Must everyone wear a mask outdoors on synagogue property?

If you are fully vaccinated, you do not have to wear a mask while outdoors. Anyone not fully vaccinated and over the age of two must wear a mask at all times on Beth Shalom property, including outdoors. Please keep in mind that the Jewish values of *pekuach nefesh* (saving lives) and *sakkanat nefesh* (not endangering health) require us to do all we can to remain as safe as possible and reduce danger to others as much as possible.

Q. Will participants be able to use the restroom?

Lobby restrooms are available for use, if needed, for up to three individuals at a time. If you prefer to be the only person in the restroom, you can wait until the restroom is empty and place on the door a sign indicating the rest room is in use. Please observe social distancing while waiting for the restroom in the lobby.

Q. Will there be security?

Yes, a security guard will be on duty before, during and after services.

Q: Are we permitted to participate in the service by reading responsively and singing?

Yes, you are welcome to participate in the service by reading responsively and singing.

Q. Will I be able to chat with the Rabbi or Cantor?

After services, Rabbi and Cantor will descend to either side of the Torah Reading Table on the floor and invite congregant greetings. Please observe six feet physical distancing from our clergy during greetings and with each other as you wait your turn. Please do not approach Rabbi and Cantor on the bima.

Q. Will there be an “Oneg,” “Kiddush” or other food served?

Not at this time. Please refrain from bringing any food into the building. Only water bottles are permitted.

Please do not remove your mask to drink in the sanctuary. Please go to the lobby or outside before removing your mask to take a drink.

Q. Will services continue to be shown on Zoom and be Livestreamed?

Yes. You can continue to log in for services through either Zoom or Livestream at <http://www.beth-shalom.net>.