

Fellow Congregants

Like most of you, the Temple Isaiah staff has been at home and isolating for the past several months due to the coronavirus pandemic. We hope you've taken advantage of some of our online programming during this time.

Now, along with the rest of Howard County, we are attempting to create our own "new normal" consistent with a set of principles that will allow us to provide our spiritual and cultural activities in a manner that prioritizes the health and safety of our congregants, staff, and community. We are exploring ways to continue to build *kehilah* (community) in a way that gradually allows us to increase our in-person services, gatherings, and education, while adhering to governmental and public health recommendations. We want to be mindful and responsive to the needs and concerns of our Temple Isaiah family, and recognize that we will not be able to satisfy or respond to each individual's desired approach.

To that end, we have convened a number of committees consisting of our lay leadership, rabbinic and administrative staff, and health professional consultants to help guide and determine our next steps. Keep in mind this situation is extremely fluid, and should we receive additional information that merits modifying our recommendations, we will do so accordingly.

We have identified a series of activities, general behavioral expectations, and environmental protective efforts that we believe are within the prescribed guidelines and allow us to carry out our responsibilities and obligations for all of our membership.

Therefore, as we reopen services in the coming months, we will require the wearing of masks, adherence to physical distancing, encourage hand washing and other hygiene efforts, limit the number of participants at meetings and gatherings both religious and social, ask for registration when attending activities, and adhere to and provide sanitation and disinfection procedures consistent with CDC and EPA guidance.

We know our parents are anxious to know about our schools. Details will be coming out as soon as they are available, and as of now our plan is for preschool and Kulanu to open in the fall, with modifications appropriate to all guidelines.

Always know that our goal is to offer you, our Temple Isaiah family members, a safe, healthy, and spiritually rewarding return to our sacred community..