
MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT TODD COOK AND RABBI BIGMAN

Dear Shaarey Zedek Family,

It is with heavy hearts that we have decided that our High Holy Days services this year will be held online rather than in-person. After many months of study, it has become clear that we cannot safely worship together in our building for the High Holy Days. Please note that this decision aligns with congregations across the state as indicated by the Michigan Board of Rabbi's (MBOR) recent statement on High Holy Days services.

With the ongoing devastation of COVID-19 and the various measures we must take to ensure we are doing what we can to remain healthy, our celebrations must take place beyond the physical walls of our congregational buildings. This year our High Holidays services will be online.

The story is told that in 1848 Rabbi Israel Salanter ordered his congregation to NOT fast on *Yom Kippur* due to the cholera epidemic. This was an act of *pikuakh nefesh* (saving a life) as fasting that year could have damaged the congregants' health during the cholera epidemic. Our situation is similar, and in light of this global pandemic, we have been and need to continue to be diligent about taking care of the lives of our members and staff. Thus we must do something unprecedented: we must worship as one community, but in individual homes.

Rabbi Bigman, Cantor Emerita Schiffer, and Administrator Warshaw have spent months studying the situation, attending more webinars than can be counted, and learning from colleagues -- both Reform and Conservative. The Ritual Committee has also reviewed with our clergy how we can continue to provide worship services that are both meaningful and recognize the unique public health circumstances we find ourselves in currently. This year's services will be different, but the commitment to our faith remains constant and we look forward to when we can safely come together and worship.

On the next page, please find the schedule for this year's High Holy Days worship. Our worship services will be combined for both our Reform and Conservative members this year, with the exception that on the first day of *Rosh HaShanah* and on *Yom Kippur* there will be opportunities for us to pray together the *Musaf* service from a Conservative prayer book and the second day *Rosh HaShanah* worship will continue to be in the Conservative style as in previous years. Links to all of the services and online prayer books will be sent out at a later date.

We understand this is an adjustment to how we do things and thank you for your understanding as we all work through the challenges brought about by the pandemic. The Congregation Shaarey Zedek family cares for one another and it is out of care that these changes will occur. As Talmud teaches: *Kol Yisraeil areivim zeh l'zeh* – All Jews are responsible for one another.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at the phone numbers listed below.

With best wishes for continued safety and health,

Todd Cook, President (517-281-4042)

Amy B. Bigman, Rabbi (314-440-8050)



Worship Schedule

Rosh HaShanah Evening, Friday, September 18

6:00 p.m. Candles/ *Kiddush* /Family Blessings (Zoom)

7:30 p.m. Worship (Livestream)

Rosh HaShanah Day 1 Saturday, September 19

9:00 Children's Worship (Livestream)

10:00 Adult Worship -Combined (Livestream)

10 minutes after the conclusion of the adult worship service, the *Musaf* service will take place (Zoom)

3:30 *Tashlikh* / Birthday Party for the World (Ferguson Park)

Rosh HaShanah Day 2 Sunday, September 20

10:00 Adult Worship Conservative (Livestream)

Kol Nidrei Evening, Sunday, September 27

6:00 p.m. Candles/ *Kiddush* /Family Blessings (Zoom)

7:30 p.m. Worship (Livestream)

Yom Kippur Day Monday, September 28

9:00 Children's Worship (Livestream)

10:00 Adult Worship (Livestream)

10 minutes after the conclusion of the adult worship service, the *Musaf* service will take place (Zoom)

2:00 Adult Education (Zoom)

3:00 Healing Service (Zoom)

3:30 *Minkhah* (Livestream)

4:30 *Yizkor* (Livestream)

5:00 *Neilah* (Livestream)

