



May 18, 2021

Dear Temple Shir Shalom Members and Friends,

After more than thirteen months of Covid-19, it is with great hope and optimism that we are finally able to share our plans for a physical, in-person opening of our Temple. Starting on Friday, June 25, 2021, each week we will be offering two, separate Friday evening experiences, both led by Rabbi Joseph. From 6:00-6:40pm, we will offer an online, Zoom based service much as we have come to expect during the pandemic. From 7:00-7:45pm, we will offer an in-person service in our sanctuary, with a seating limit of 30 people to begin with. Rabbi Joseph will be integrating into these in-person services some of the graphical and musical richness of our online service.

Our prayer books will be supplemented by text, graphics and video displayed on a new large monitor in the sanctuary. During the course of the summer, our intention is to merge these separate services toward a single, simultaneous experience, hopefully in time for the 2021 High Holidays. Saturday morning services and other Temple meetings and events will follow this general trajectory from separate to simultaneous experiences.

At no time in the foreseeable future do we anticipate abandoning our on-line gathering options.

As we begin this complex process of reopening, here are some of the limitations we will impose on in-person services:

Seating will be limited to 30 people. Household members will be allowed to sit together but groups will be spread throughout the sanctuary. We ask that you please respect the space of friends and neighbors. Reservations for Friday Shabbat services will be REQUIRED. We will be using Sign-Up Genius as our reservation platform. We ask that each household limit their attendance to two services per month. The Temple Board reserves the right to deny admittance to unregistered "walk-ins" Proper face masks will be REQUIRED of all who enter the Temple building. We do have an ample collection of brand new masks that can be given to anyone who does not arrive with one. Out of respect for our families and friends, we strongly suggest that only fully vaccinated people attend our in-person gatherings. And if you are not feeling well, please stay home! Kiddush and Oneg will be suspended until further notice. No food or drink will be available, and we will discourage indoor lingering after events.

This cautious and realistic plan to guide us toward a new post-pandemic chapter in the life of Temple Shir Shalom is the product of months of deliberations by our Covid-19 Task Force, the members of which are listed below. We deeply appreciate your many months of patience, understanding, and willingness to adapt to changing circumstances. .

Thanks to your generosity of spirit, we feel that Temple Shir Shalom has not just survived the pandemic; we have grown closer as a congregation. We trust that we can continue to count on your support as we move forward in a way that continues to nurture our spirits as well as protect our physical well-being.

This plan is temporary. Our intention is to move toward an integrated, simultaneous experience hopefully in time for the 2021 High Holidays. As in the past fourteen months, our main concern has been Pikuach Nifesh, The Sanctity of all life.

Sincerely,

Marcia Storch, David Pawliger, Adele Beckerman, Toby Hunter, Marc Zumberg,  
Howie Malatzky, Henry Storch, Ann Eisenstadt and Rabbi Joseph