



June 28, 2020

A great deal has changed in just a week: sadly, maybe even tragically, Florida has become a Covid-19 epicenter. The terror we felt in March and April, perhaps prematurely or a little unreasonably, is back, and entirely reasonable this time. How this surge in Covid cases will effect our medium-term plans to reopen our Temple building remains to be seen. In the short-term, however, reopening the building is out of the question.

But the building is just a building; Temple Shir Shalom as a loving congregation has been open all along, and it will continue to be open. For one thing, we are offering a full-range of online services and programs, including now our "just-for-fun" online Trivia Night. We are averaging over 40 online connections every Friday night, most serving two or more individuals. We are averaging 10-15 online connections for Tuesday Torah study and Saturday services, If you haven't joined us yet for any of these programs, please join us now online, where our congregational life is centered for the time being.

Even more important, think of our congregation as a source of solace and support. If you just need someone to talk to or you know of someone else who does, please call and let me know. If you have an important errand to run but you are fearful of going out, please call me or the Temple office and let us know; we will do our best to find someone to help you. If you are having trouble meeting your financial commitment to Temple, please call the Temple office and let us make adjustments for you--we value your membership and want to encourage your continued participation.

Of course we will get through this; we will get through it less painfully if we stick together, offering help where we can and accepting help as we need. Please allow your synagogue to be part of the solution.

Rabbi Michael Joseph