

December 10, 2020

Dear Beth Shalom Family,

We hope this message finds you well and ready to enjoy the festival of lights, even though Hanukkah will feel a bit different this year. Well, as you all know, EVERYTHING is different this year. The changes and flexibility at Beth Shalom are no exception.

With that said, due to the increased COVID-19 cases at an all time high and other safety concerns for our kehillah, **the Reopening Task Force has decided to pull back a bit from our limited in-person attendance during Shabbat morning services. Beginning this Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, we will revert back to only having Rabbi Z and one (1) other person to help him daven in the sanctuary.**

**However, we will be adding a new experience to our Shabbat morning services with the option to participate (mostly video only) via ZOOM. See the [Broadcasting with Beth Shalom webpage](#) for more info in the coming weeks.**

The Task Force did not make this decision lightly. Our previous policies and protocols during our in-person, Phase 2 Shabbat services we deemed quite safe and appropriate. However, the circumstances around us just did not warrant our continued activities, so with an abundance of caution, we will be taking going back to our 'Phase 1' service at least until Saturday, January 2, 2021. At that time, the Task Force will decide around future Shabbat morning services. Until then and moving forward, we will look for more opportunities to gather and pray outside (weather permitting of course ☺).

Additionally, it is important to note that **this change does not apply to the Alefbet Preschool or the Gilner Religious School.** These activities with our kids have a different set of protocols as well as fill a need that differs from our Shabbat services. Although the Task Force continues to monitor their situation closely, there is no substantive changes to our preschool and religious schools at this time.

**Whether in-person or virtually, we are still a kehillah.** Each of you make Beth Shalom the warm, spiritual community that we are. Thank you for your continued support and please know that Beth Shalom is still here for you in whatever way you need us.

Remember to join us online all week for the [8 Nights of Hanukkah!](#)

Be well, stay safe and Happy Hanukkah!

**Wendy Widis  
President**

**Howard Fish  
Reopening Task Force Chair**

**Loli Gross  
Executive Director**

**Rabbi Mark Zimmerman**