

Shaarei Shamayim

Inclusive Jewish Community



For updated information regarding events, please call 257-2944 or visit our website at shamayim.org. All potlucks are vegetarian. Unless otherwise noted, all services and events are located at the First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services will be in the Atrium building. Youth services and discussions will be led by Rabbi Laurie Zimmerman, Cantor Shira Stanford-Asiyo, Aviv Kammay, and members.

Selichot Service

Saturday, September 21

Services, singing, and community reflections at 7:00 p.m. followed by a dessert potluck in the Gaebler Living Room.

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Sunday, September 29

Potluck 5:00 p.m.

Services in the main sanctuary 7:00 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah, first day

Monday, September 30

Services in the main sanctuary: 9:00 a.m.

Tot Services (0-5 years old): 9:00 a.m.

Children's Services (K-5th grade): 10:00 a.m.

Discussion, 6th-8th graders: 10:00 a.m.

Discussion, 9th-12th graders: 10:00 a.m.

Tashlich: 3:00 p.m.

Meet at 714 S Orchard St. and walk to Wingra Creek.

Rosh Hashanah, second day

Tuesday, October 1

Services in main sanctuary: 9:00 a.m.

Picnic lunch: 12:00 p.m.

Kol Nidrei

Tuesday, October 8

Services in the main sanctuary 6:00 p.m.

Yom Kippur

Wednesday, October 9

Services in the main sanctuary: 9:00 a.m.

Tot Services (0-5 years old): 9:00 a.m.

Children's Services (K-5th grade): 10:00 a.m.

Discussion, 6th-8th graders: 10:00 a.m.

Discussion, 9th-12th graders: 10:00 a.m.

Yizkor 1:30 p.m.

Avodah 3:00 p.m.

Discussion 4:30 p.m.

Neilah 6:00 p.m.

Break Fast potluck 7:30 p.m.

Sukkot

Sunday, October 13

Sukkah building and decorating, 3:00 p.m.

Friday, October 18

Intergenerational Shabbat Sukkot Potluck, 5:30 p.m.

All are welcome to eat in the sukkah throughout the week, October 13-22.

Simchat Torah

Monday, October 21

Dinner at 5:30 p.m. followed by a service at 6:15 p.m. with dancing, rolling the Torah, and a dessert potluck.

High Holy Days 5780

Congregation Shaarei Shamayim

Who We Are

Shaarei Shamayim is Madison's Jewish Reconstructionist and Jewish Renewal Community. We are a growing community of over 165 households, and we welcome traditional and nontraditional families, singles, interfaith couples, and gays and lesbians from Madison and its surrounding area. We have come together from varied Jewish backgrounds, and our members' Jewish education ranges from extensive to none at all. We work to create an environment where all people feel welcome regardless of their religious, spiritual, or cultural identity. We are committed to fostering Jewish spiritual experience through prayer, meditation, study, song, social action, and friendship.

What We Offer

We offer a range of activities, services, classes, and celebrations. We celebrate Shabbat together with Saturday morning Torah study and services and Friday night potlucks and singing. We have an extensive children's education program for preschoolers through seventh grade, and we have a popular Bar/Bat Mitzvah program and youth group for our teens. Our adult education program consists of weekly classes, retreats, and field trips. We have a Shabbaton (weekend of learning with a guest scholar or rabbi) once a year. We celebrate holidays together throughout the year.

Join Us for the High Holidays

Our services are located in the Atrium auditorium of the First Unitarian Society. They combine traditional prayers with contemporary poetry, readings, and songs. We are participatory and encourage our members and friends to lead elements of the service, sing along, share English readings, chant Torah and Haftarah, and blow shofar. Our services last several hours; we encourage you to take breaks and sit outside on the lawn or chat with a friend in the lobby. Many people come and go throughout these days. We hope you make our space your home during this time. Tickets are never required, and all are welcome.

Our Mission Statement

Shaarei Shamayim is a Jewish congregation dually affiliated with the Reconstructing Judaism Movement and Aleph: Alliance for Jewish Renewal. We come together because Judaism is our joy and we want to celebrate with each other, our community, and our children. We believe that by joining our energies in those things for which we have passion and vision we can build a community. We are committed to fostering Jewish spiritual experience through participatory and egalitarian services that are both creative and rooted in tradition.



We are committed to developing our congregation as a place of Jewish learning, where adults and children can study the traditional sources in a way that is meaningful for our time and world.

We are committed to being a welcoming and inclusive community.

We are committed to working toward tikkun olam (repair of the world).

We celebrate Jewishness in prayer, study, song, dance, meditation, and social action.