

CoronaVirus Update 3-13-2020 - 9:30AM

Dear Members of the Temple Beth Ahm Community,

One of the most powerful aspects of being a member of Temple Beth Ahm is the close-knit feeling of our community, including the in-person interactions we enjoy with each other, whether we are getting together for social, educational, or religious activities. However, the seriousness of the CoronaVirus situation requires that we prioritize the health and safety of our members and guests above all else, in keeping with the Jewish values of "pikuach netesh" ("saving a life)" and "sh'mirat ha-guf" ("watching over and taking care of our bodies.") Although, thankfully, there have been no incidents of the CoronaVirus at Temple Beth Ahm, we have decided to be proactive. To ensure the safety and health of our community, we are **suspending all synagogue activities, including Shabbat services, daily minyan, Religious School, Preschool, all other educational and social events, & in-person committee meetings, beginning on Friday, March 13 at 3:30 PM (after preschool) until at least Tuesday, March 31,** when we will reassess the situation in light of additional health updates from the CDC and NJ Board of Health.

At this point, we have not scheduled any virtual events. If you wish to be part of a weekday minyan, you may connect virtually with 10 people who are meeting in person; you may recite Mourner's Kaddish along with that minyan. For more information, read the teshuvah (responsum), *Minyan via the Internet*, by Rabbi Avram Reisner (Committee on Jewish Law & Standards). If you would like to connect to Conservative synagogues that have live streaming set up for prayer services on weekdays and/or Shabbat, here are some links:

Adath Israel in Philadelphia suburbs: <https://www.adathisrael.org/livestream/>

Beth Shalom in Chicago suburbs (note the 1 hour time difference):

<https://www.bethshalomnb.org/pray/live-streaming/>

Chizuk Amuno in Baltimore suburbs:

<https://www.chizukamuno.org/prayer/livestream/>

Park Avenue in Manhattan:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRnLywpdNIQ>

Avoid Shabbat violations by activating the stream before Shabbat begins. For your own health and safety, please avoid any in-person gatherings at home or at other synagogues until the CoronaVirus situation is under control.

Shabbat Shalom,

Nathan Goldwasser

TBA President