

Dear Friends,

The Michigan Board of Rabbis, on which Rabbi Gamer serves as Vice-President, recently released the below statement. We at Congregation Beth Shalom have been diligently planning for the High Holidays based on the assumption that our services would mainly be online due to the pandemic. As specific details of our services at Congregation Beth Shalom are finalized we will update you. If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact Rabbi Gamer at rgamer@congbethshalom.org.



Bryan Beckerman, President Rabbi Robert Gamer Cantor Sam Greenbaum

Michigan Board of Rabbis
Statement on the 5781/2020 High Holy Days
July 20, 2020

“The Yamim Nora’im, the Days of Awe, are a time for community to come together. This year we, the members of the Michigan Board of Rabbis, look forward to celebrating with our congregational families once again.

As leaders of the Jewish Community, we are committed to Jewish values to help keep our communities safe at this time based on a preponderance of the best scientific and medical advice that we have. It is based on that expert advice and the Jewish values of *Pikuah Nefesh*, “Safeguarding Life,” and *Sakanat Nefeshot*, the prohibition of “Endangering Life,” that lead us to the following decision:

With the ongoing devastation of COVID-19 and the various measures we must take to ensure we are doing what we can to remain healthy, our celebrations must take place beyond the physical walls of our congregational buildings. This year our High Holidays services will be online. Some synagogues may have a small number of members present on site for ritual purposes and/or to help lead elements of various services.

We know that this will make this High Holy Days different than any we have celebrated before. Each of our congregations are diligently working on ways to engage our communities in meaningful ways. We look forward to celebrating these awesome days together beyond the walls of our congregations and to a time when we can all safely gather together in our sacred spaces.”