

Frequently Asked Questions

Where do I park?

Beth Abraham has a good-sized parking lot, and if you come within the first 30-60 minutes of services you are likely to get a spot. You are welcome to park along the side streets in the neighborhood, such as Raymond, Chester, Berkeley, and Wood Streets. Please make sure not to block anyone's driveway and to respect a distance of 25 feet from any intersection according to Nashua regulations.

Do I need a ticket to come to services?

Every member of Beth Abraham who is in good standing receives tickets for every member of the household. Others arrange for tickets ahead of time and make a donation. We do not turn anyone away at the door. If you do not have a ticket, one of the greeters will talk with you to find out your name, answer questions, and welcome you. We would give you a ticket at that point with some information about Beth Abraham and an encouragement to make a donation to help us remain able to offer our services for the whole community.

Where am I allowed to sit in services?

Anywhere! Beth Abraham has no assigned or pre-arranged seating. You are welcome to be in any part of the Sanctuary, as close or as far back as you like.

Are there special places or activities for children?

We have babysitting for the youngest children (up through age 5), a service for children in grades K-2, a service for children in grades 3-6, and discussion groups for teens. Information about each place is on the services information page of the bulletin and will be posted at both entrances to the synagogue.

Can I bring my kids into services, even if they are little?

Absolutely! Children of any age can experience the service and be fascinated by many dimensions – the big room, the sounds of singing, the intangible atmosphere of introspection. Being together with your child or children can be profound for you too. If you have a child who makes noise or is active, try sitting toward the back and feel free to come and go through the door at the back whenever you need to, so other people can concentrate. But a little noise from young people contributes a good energy. Do make sure to supervise your children, whether they are in the service or in the open spaces.

Can I bring snacks for my children?

You can! We are a kosher facility, so you can bring fresh fruit and vegetables, whole or cut up in your home or prepared anywhere so long as they are plain; packaged snacks and drink boxes that have a kosher certification symbol on them, typically a U or a K with a circle around it. Foods baked in your home may not be brought in. If you have a question, or if you have special dietary needs that are hard to meet this way, ask Rabbi Jon ahead of time.

Do I have to wear a tallit (prayer shawl) or a kippah (covering for the head)?

Our norms are as follows. All men, whether Jewish or not Jewish, wear a kippah. Women are encouraged to do so but not required. Jewish men are expected to wear a tallit, and Jewish women are encouraged to do so as well but not required. If a woman is going up to the bimah in front for an honor, she needs to wear a head covering during the time she is in front of the congregation. We have both tallitot and kippot available for people to use.

Can I use my cellphone?

We observe the holy days by the traditional rules for Shabbat and festivals. Cellphones, cameras and the like are not used in the synagogue. If you have a profession that requires you to be reachable, such as a doctor, please set your device to vibrate, turn it off as soon as you perceive a call, and then walk outside the building to pick up a message or return a call.

What arrangements do you have for people who are disabled or have limited mobility?

We always save some seats that are easy to get to, by aisles and near the main doors into the Sanctuary. The ushers will be happy to help you.

Can I bring crayons or markers, or something else to occupy a child during services?

Traditionally, writing is considered a violation of the holy day rules. Our suggestion is stickers that can be put on paper.

Can I take a break during services? Where can I go?

Yes, you certainly can leave during services. There are certain times when it is not appropriate to leave - usually when the congregation is standing. You are welcome to be in the Gallery, which is our big open foyer/lobby, or in the Library toward the back entrance. We ask that you be mindful of the fact that even quiet conversations carry toward the Sanctuary, even when the doors are closed. So keep conversations very quiet, and if you are talking find a place that is far from the Sanctuary, and also not right next to another room where an activity with children is taking place.