

High Holidays Frequently Asked Questions

Please continue to visit our website at aasynagogue.org/high-holidays for the most up-to-date information on scheduling and the programming.

Will prayer books be available?

Yes. You'll find prayer books when you enter the synagogue either at the tables in Cohen Pavilion or in the lobby by the front Gold Doors. We ask that you please return your prayer book to the Help Desk as you leave the building. We will be using the prayer book, *Machzor Hadash*.

Is there reserved seating or seating for congregants with special needs?

All seating is general admission apart from designated areas for those with ambulatory needs and their caretakers. After the Torah Procession, the congregation will enter the Main Sanctuary together, and everyone will choose from the available seating. Once the lower level of the Sanctuary is full, we will open the balcony for seating in the four sections that face directly toward the ark.

What time should I arrive for services?

On the first and second day of Rosh Hashanah, AA welcomes everyone to enjoy a light bite, coffee, and community between 9 and 10 am. Whether you are just arriving or taking a short break from the 8 am service (in Ellman Chapel), take a few minutes to relax and transition into the spirit of the holiday. We hope everyone will arrive on time for the Torah Processional (from Ellman Chapel into the Main Sanctuary), which will begin at 10 am! **New this year: on the first day of Rosh Hashanah, we're adding a second post-sanctuary service Oneg Reception for a little nosh after the conclusion of prayer.** Come early and stay late for food, fellowship, and bright new beginnings.

Will there be a Torah Procession on the first and second day of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur?

Yes. On both the first and second day of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur, the Shacharit and Torah services will be held in Ellman Chapel. At the conclusion of the Torah service, Cantor Lieberman and the *meshoranim* (singers) will follow the Torahs with lively songs, including *niggunim* (wordless tunes), into the Main Sanctuary.

Why start the service with Shacharit in Ellman Chapel?

For many years, our early morning attendance on the holidays is a small crowd. We will daven the early morning prayers in Ellman Chapel to create a more intimate worship experience.

Can I bring my children into the "Sweet New Year" receptions?

Absolutely! Your children are welcome to be with you whenever you like and certainly on the first and second day of Rosh Hashanah at the Sweet New Year Reception.

What are the plans for childcare and programming for our children?

Childcare will open at 8:45 am for all ages. Child/teen programming will begin at 10:00 am. All check-in will take place at 9:15 - 9:45 am in Ahava Early Learning Center where your child(ren)/teen(s) will be escorted to their appropriate starting place. Pick-up will take place at 12:45 - 2 pm within the classrooms. In following with safety protocols, children up to 8th grade will be administered name tags. This will help building security know who they are.

I purchased tickets for my children/guests. Will they be mailed to me?

Yes. All purchased tickets will be mailed until two weeks before Rosh Hashanah. If you do not receive your ticket in the mail, please call the office to have it reissued. If it is within a week of Rosh Hashanah, and you still have not received your ticket, please expect to pick it up at will-call upon arrival on the day of services. Tickets are bound to a specific name, and they are not transferable.

Will I need to bring my ticket to get into services?

Yes. For security purposes, we ask people to show their tickets upon arrival. If you forget your ticket, simply go to the registration tables in the Cohen Pavilion, sign in, and get a new ticket.

Can I sit in the sanctuary before 10 am?

Based on congregational feedback, this year, we will remove the partitions near the Main Sanctuary, so, those who are more comfortable sitting, can relax and experience the end of the procession. We encourage you to coordinate with loved ones in advance about the area in which you plan to sit, so that you can easily find each other to sit together.

Will there be dancing?

We have not planned for any type of dancing or organized dance. However, if anyone would like to dance, that is certainly their prerogative!

Will there be instruments and music?

We will not have any instruments; however, there will be music! We hope to be able to lift one another up in song with the help of the choir and the *meshoranim*.

What are the rules on cell phones during the holidays?

We encourage you to unplug when you enter the building to allow yourself to be present and immerse yourselves in the spirit of the holiday. We ask that you please try to limit cell phone usage (talk/text/internet) to outside the synagogue on the holidays.