

High Holiday Frequently Asked Questions

Please continue to visit our website at aasynagogue.org/High-Holidays-5779 for the most up-to-date information on scheduling and the High Holidays. If you have additional questions, please call 404.355.5222.

Q. Will prayer books be available for those of us who have been attending the tent service?

A. 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*.

Q. I really love the tent service. I'm upset that there's not going to be a tent this year.

A. We are not losing our tent service - we promise! The engagement, involvement, and accessibility congregants have come to love in the tent will still exist. There will still be explanations in key points of the service, interactive dialogue, and group aliyot. Additionally, thanks to the generosity of two families, the look and feel inside the sanctuary will be transformed, including a lower bimah and seating in the round – not to mention, air conditioning!

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

A. All seating is general admission with the exception of designated areas for those with ambulatory needs and their caretakers. After the Torah processional, 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 4 sections that face directly toward the ark.

Q. I usually arrive to services around 10:30/10:45 am. What time should I arrive?

A. This year, we encourage you to arrive a bit earlier, so you don't miss the festivities! Arrive by 9:30 am so that you have time to enjoy the Sweet New Year in Srochi Hall and to join in the Processional taking place at 10:00 am.

Q. Will there be a processional on the second day of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur?

A. On both the 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, the main sanctuary will be open for all to move into the sanctuary. However, there will be no formal processional on these days.

Q. Why start the service with Shacharit in Ellman Chapel?

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

Q. What about the chanting service I used to enjoy in the tent?

A. The chanting service will still take place on the second day of Rosh Hashanah. This year, the service will take place in Paradies Hall.

Q. Can I bring my children into the “Sweet New Year” Kiddush?

A. Absolutely! Your children are welcome to be with you whenever you like and certainly on the first day of Rosh Hashanah at the Sweet New Year celebration in Srochi Hall.

Q. What are the plans for child care and programming for our children?

A. Childcare will open at 8:00 am for all ages. Children's programming will begin at 10:00 am. Please pre-register your children at bit.ly/5779HHChild-Teen. Then, on the holidays, sign in your kids in the Cavalier Conference Room throughout the day, at whatever time you'd like them to participate. For more information on childcare or children's programming, please visit aasynagogue.org/High-Holidays-5779.

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

A. No. These tickets and all non-member tickets will be available for pick up at the registration tables in the Cohen Pavilion.

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

A. 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.

Q. Wishes for the New Year? That's different.

A. It is! So often we arrive to synagogue for the holidays in a whirlwind of trying to get to the AA on time, finding parking, worrying about a seat, arranging for our kids, etc. This year, put your hopes and goals at the top of the list and make our Rosh Hashanah experience powerful for you personally. Please write out your wishes for 5779 on the top part of your ticket, tear it off, and place it in our “Kotel” in Srochi Hall. Let's begin our new year with hope and gladness.

Q. What time should I arrive?

A. As Rabbi Rosenthal said, “If they only come for one hour, even though it would mean they'd miss my sermon, I hope people are here for the processional and the shofar service.” So, if you can only get here for an hour, make sure to arrive by 9:30 am or 9:45 am so you don't miss the festivities!

Q. Can I sit in the sanctuary before 10 am?

A. We will not be opening the sanctuary doors for seating until after the processional from Ellman Chapel. This way, we can all enter together as one community. If you arrive before the main sanctuary is open, please enjoy the Sweet New Year celebration in Srochi Hall or join us for the beginning part of services in the Ellman Chapel.

Q. Will there be dancing?

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

Q. Will there be instruments and music?

A. 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 meshorerim - individuals from within our congregation who have formed together to help lead and uplift us in song.

Q. What are the rules on cell phones during the holidays?

A. 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.