

Welcome to Kahal

The Order of Our Service

Kahal consists of a full Shabbat morning service using the Reform Movement's *Mishkan T'filah* prayer book. The service is led by worship leader Beth Reinstein or by Cantor Arik Luck, with assistance from participants who have signed up for that week's supporting roles. In addition to traditional Shabbat morning prayers, the service includes:

- Torah reading by individuals from the Beth Emet community
- A thought-provoking discussion of the weekly Torah portion or Haftarah, typically led by a Beth Emet volunteer or a member of the clergy
- *Aleinu*, Mourner's *Kaddish*, and a concluding song

Our Worship

The Kahal service is a combination of Hebrew prayers and English readings from *Mishkan T'filah*. There is much singing, as well as time for reflection and meditation.

Kahal starts with a melody to mark the transition from everyday activities to prayer. Next is *Ma Tovu* (page 30)—a prayer that evokes images of ancient tents as we enter into a spiritual space shared with our ancestors—and then the introductory prayers. We follow with the most sacred part of the service, the *Sb'ma* and its blessings (page 226) and the *Amidah*, or standing worship (page 242), part of which is recited in silence. If you get lost, just ask a neighbor for help.

Torah Service and D'var Torah

The portion of the service centers on readings from the Torah (Five Books of Moses) and Haftarah (selections from the books of Prophets). Volunteers indicate online or on the sign-up clipboard that they wish to read or chant blessings (in Hebrew or English), open the ark, carry the Torah, dress or raise the Torah, chant from the Torah, read or chant the Haftarah, or lead the discussion of the week's Torah or Haftarah portion.

Being called to the Torah can be a meaningful way to mark a special occasion or life milestone. You can sign up for a role in the service in advance online or on the sign-up clipboard as you enter the Weiner Room on Shabbat morning.

The Torah service is followed by a spirited d'var Torah (discussion of the weekly Torah reading). The d'var Torah is led by a volunteer or clergy member who prepares in advance. You can sign up online or at Kahal to lead an upcoming discussion.

Concluding Prayers

The Torah discussion is followed by prayers for those in need of strength and healing and prayers for those in a period of mourning. Everyone can then make announcements about upcoming events of interest to the community. The service ends with a closing song, followed by Kiddush and Motzi, prayers to sanctify the day and express gratitude.

Attire

Attire at Kahal ranges from casual to very casual. You can feel comfortable dressing according to your personal preference. But don't mistake the casual attire at Kahal for a lack of commitment when it comes to religious, spiritual and intellectual engagement.

Our Communal Commitment

Kahal is first and foremost a sacred space for communal worship. As such, we place the highest value on courtesy toward others, limiting our conversations, and showing respect for ritual objects (for example, prayer books and other sacred objects should be kept off the floor and separate from our coffee mugs and other non-ritual objects). Above all, we commit ourselves to honoring the dignity of each person, present or otherwise, reminding ourselves that each person is created in the divine image.

Everyone is encouraged to find his/her own way to be a part of the service. Beth Emet's rabbis, cantor and educators are always glad to talk about ways to expand your comfort level, and if you turn to someone sitting nearby you'll find them eager to assist.

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Families and Children

Families and participants of all ages are welcome. Children are encouraged to participate. Once comfortable with the Hebrew, they can volunteer to lead the congregation in the *Ashrei* (page 215), a responsive psalm in which each line begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

Children can join Kahal for as much or as little of the service as they would like. Families regularly attend Kahal, and babysitting is always available, at no charge, whenever children (or parents) need a break.

Potluck

On the last Saturday of each month, we share a potluck vegetarian lunch. If you didn't bring a dish this time, don't worry; just come and enjoy! If you are a regular attendee, please bring an item for others to share or make a donation on the Beth Emet website to help support the cost of bagels and other items purchased for the potluck by the Kahal Fund.

To Learn More about Kahal

To learn more about Kahal, contact a member of the Kahal Va'ad, a rotating committee of Kahal participants (whose names are listed on the bulletin board in the Weiner Room). You can also sign up to receive e-mail notification of Kahal events (like reminders of the potluck lunch on the last Saturday of each month) by sending an email to membership@bethemet.org.

Welcome and Shabbat Shalom!



Welcome to the Kahal (Community) Shabbat Morning Service

Welcome to Beth Emet's Kahal Shabbat morning service. The word *kahal* means community. Kahal is a place where everyone is welcome—for communal worship, reflection, Torah study, or to be among community in times of celebration or in times of loss. Whether you are a newcomer to Beth Emet or a longtime member, you will find Kahal a friendly, welcoming place to be.

Kahal meets each Saturday morning in the Weiner Room on Beth Emet's lower level and is one of several Shabbat morning services typically taking place at that time. You can reach the Weiner Room either by stairs or elevator.

The service begins at 9:30 a.m., but participants arrive throughout the morning. Whenever you arrive, come and join in, and sit wherever you wish.

The service concludes around 11:45 a.m., followed by Kiddush, socializing, and introductions of newcomers.