



High Holidays FAQ

When are the High Holidays in 2024?

Rosh Hashanah begins at sunset on Wednesday, October 2, and ends at nightfall on Friday, October 4.

Yom Kippur begins at sunset on Friday, October 11, and ends at nightfall (6:48pm) on Saturday, October 12.

What time do services start?

Erev Rosh Hashanah: 7 pm 10/2

Rosh Hashanah Day 1: 9 am 10/3

Rosh Hashanah Day 2: 9 am 10/4

Tashlich: 1 pm or immediately following services (Prescott Park, Portsmouth), 3:30 pm (Swasey Park, Exeter, AND Henry Law Park, Dover) 10/3

Kol Nidre: 5:30 pm 10/11 (access may be limited after services start, so plan to arrive early)

Yom Kippur morning: 9 am, 10/12

Yom Kippur Mincha/Neilah: 4:30 pm 10/12

Final Shofar blast: 6:48 pm 10/12

Community Break-the-Fast: 7:00 pm 10/12

Do I need tickets to attend High Holiday services at Temple Israel?

Temple Israel requires registration by all attendees at High Holiday services. You can register online at [High Holidays 2024 Registration](#) or by emailing templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org.

Is there a fee to attend High Holiday services?

Members: Each adult member is entitled to one adult seat at High Holiday services.

Children under age 26, current college students, and active-duty military are welcome with no expected donation.

Guests/Non-Members: Guests of Temple Israel congregants are invited with a suggested donation of \$36 per holiday. The suggested donation for visitors and other non-members is \$60 per holiday per person or \$90 per family per holiday.

All donations are deeply appreciated, but inability to donate is not a bar to attendance. All are welcome at our services.

High Holiday services are underwritten by the membership of Temple Israel and by a grant from Temple Israel's Cultural Endowment Fund.

What is the deadline to sign up for services?

The deadline for Rosh Hashanah reservations is **Friday, September 27**.





The deadline for Yom Kippur reservations is Monday, October 7.

Where are services held?

High Holiday seating for the main service is in our historic Sanctuary (200 State Street, Portsmouth, NH). Youth services (grades 1-5) are held in our social hall. All indoor services are also available via Zoom, with the link sent out to all who register. Access the main sanctuary and social hall through the doors to the far left on State Street. Those with limited mobility may enter through the Court Street doors.

Can I participate remotely?

You can access our main services via Zoom on a phone, tablet, or computer. Pre-registration is required. All registrants (including those who register for in-person attendance) will receive a Zoom link. The suggested donation for a Zoom Pass (access to all High Holiday services) for non-members is \$36 for all holidays.

Who is leading services this year?

Our main sanctuary services will be led by Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman and Cantor Julie Newman. Youth services will be led by Ilene Kanoff. Teen programs will be led by Reb Beni Summers.

When can I hear the shofar?

Shofar will be blown during morning services on the first and second days of Rosh Hashanah (October 3 and 4), sometime after 11:30 am. We will also blow shofar during Tashlich on October 3 on the pier in Portsmouth's Prescott Park at 1 pm, in Exeter's Swasey Parkway at the boat launch at 3:30 pm, and at Dover's Henry Law Park at 3:30 pm. The final shofar blast of the holidays will be at the end of Neilah (6:48 pm) on Yom Kippur (October 12).

Will there be security?

We take security very seriously and are following a security plan developed by our Security Committee in conjunction with Portsmouth Police and national advisory groups. Large bags and backpacks are not permitted in the building, and all attendees must register in advance.

Can my children attend High Holiday services?

Children are always welcome in our sanctuary. "Busy bags" and children's books are located in the rear lefthand corner of the sanctuary. The Temple library also offers a place for quiet play if children need a break during services. Babysitting is available in the preschool classroom for children ages 2-5 and supervised quiet activities are available in a second classroom for children ages 6-10 (pre-registration required).



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Will you hold children's services?

Youth Services for children in grades 1-5 will be held in the social hall during each of the High Holidays. Parents should accompany children in grade 1 or preschool. Service times are: Rosh Hashanah day 1, 10:15–11:30 am; Yom Kippur, 10:15–11:30 am.

Are there any teen programs?

Yes, Reb Beni Summers (our rabbinic intern) will lead these programs specifically designed for teens:

- a musical morning program for teens on Rosh Hashanah day 1, 9:30-10:30 am.
- After a break to participate in the Rosh Hashanah shofar service, he will lead a mini-musaf experience on Rosh Hashanah day 1, 12–12:30 pm.
- During Kol Nidre services, he will lead a teen program 6:15-7:15 pm.
- On Yom Kippur, he will lead an experiential program for teens 10–11:30 am.
- During Neilah on Yom Kippur, he will lead a teen group in the library 5:45-6:30 pm.

Where can I park for services?

Temple Israel on-site parking will be reserved for those with limited mobility, who should request a parking pass from the office for the holidays. Anyone who is able to walk should consider the **public** parking areas near the South Mill Pond, the High-Hanover Parking Garage, or the Foundry Parking Garage, all within a 15-minute walk of Temple Israel. Some parking is also available at the Middle Street Baptist Church, 18 Court Street, which has generously allowed us to **park in any spots that are not marked as reserved** for High Holidays. Please note: On-street metered parking has a two-hour limit, which is strictly enforced, and any tickets issued will be your responsibility.

What if I need a ride to services?

Please notify the Temple office well in advance if you need a ride for any of the High Holiday services. We will try to match you with someone who can drive you to and from the Temple.

What accommodations do you have for handicapped access?

Our Court Street entrance is accessible by a ramp, and the main sanctuary can be reached using an elevator near the Court Street lobby. The on-site parking is reserved for those with limited mobility, who can request a parking pass from the office in advance of the holidays.

What are your rules around masking?

At this time, we do not require masks. However, masks are available for those who wish to wear them. If you are unwell, we ask that you stay home and participate remotely.



Is a Break-the-Fast meal available?

Temple Israel will host a kosher dairy/pareve Break-the-Fast meal following Neilah on October 12 at about 7:00 pm. Separate registration is required; please [go here](#) to register.

Can I volunteer to help at High Holiday services?

Volunteers are needed to serve as greeters and ushers at in-person services and family services. Please email VPRitual@templeisraelnh.org if you are interested in volunteering.

For more information or to register for High Holidays, visit [High Holidays 2024](#).