

TEMPLE BETH AHM YISRAEL'S LITURGICAL CALENDAR

As you have hopefully noted in previous Bulletin articles, we will begin experimenting with a major liturgical calendar change. We will begin on an experimental basis to modify our calendar to be consistent with the liturgical calendar that is used in the State of Israel. Such a change impacts only on the three Pilgrimage Festivals: Sukkot, Passover and Shavuot. Thus, we will begin with the Festival of Sukkot and evaluate from there; your feedback will be helpful.

Here is how the change will impact on Sukkot: Thursday, September 23 will be Yom Tov Shel Sukkot, with the full Sukkot holiday liturgy in the sanctuary, starting at 9:30 AM. Services on September 24 will be held in the chapel at 6:30 AM and in a transition manner will in many ways reflect the liturgy that would be normally done for Yom Tov Sheynee (2nd Day) shel Sukkot. The observance of Sukkot on the 25, 26, 27 and 28 are not affected.

Wednesday morning, September 29, at 6:30 AM, the morning minyan will as usual do the Hoshanah Rabbah service, which includes the beating of the willow branches on a hard service as an act of penitence.

The next significant impact is on Shemini Atzeret (the 8th Day of Assembly), which according to the Torah is a separate Holiday and distinct from Sukkot, and Simḥat Torah, which is not found in the Torah but is a celebration added later by the rabbis. In Israel, Shemini Atzeret and Simḥat Torah take place on the same day.

Therefore, Wednesday evening, September 29, at 7:00 PM we will hold our Erev Simḥat Torah Celebration. The next morning, September 30, at 9:30 AM, our services will include the Shemini Atzeret liturgy (including **YIZKOR**) and the elements of Simhat Torah.

In addition, one more upcoming change in the pattern of our weekly services; in response to a request brought first to the Religious Affairs Committee and then to the Board of Directions, and a survey sent out to the congregation, the Friday night start time for Shabbat services has been at least temporarily changed. Effective Friday, October 8, 2010, with the exception of the first Friday night of the month, services will begin at 7:30 PM. The regular Oneg Shabbat will follow the conclusion of the service. The first Friday of every month remains at 6:30 PM and usually is followed by a Shabbat dinner. Again your feedback is important.

Rabbi Mark Mallach