



HARVEY/BETH YESHURUN UPDATE, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30

To our congregants and community:

Contractors began working yesterday afternoon in the synagogue and school to dry out the building. They were back this morning in full force and will be present for several days. Floors and walls have to be dried out. Carpets everywhere have to be removed and replaced. Everything needs to be cleaned. Decisions will have to be made shortly about repairs. Sadly, even though we had “only” 8 inches of water throughout the entire building, the beautiful and expensive wood paneling we have throughout and the matching wood doors are warped and have to be replaced. That will all take some time. All the seats in the sanctuaries – the Barg Sanctuary, the Freedman/Levit Sanctuary, and the Greenfield Chapel – have to be removed to be cleaned and possibly replaced. All of our offices – including all the rabbis and cantor – have to be renovated. We may be displaced out of the synagogue for some period of time.

Many of you have asked about volunteering with the cleanup effort. We should be able to announce tomorrow what our needs are. If you are able to, please send an email to [flood@bethyeshurun.org](mailto:flood@bethyeshurun.org) and let us know how you are doing. As soon as our staff is able to safely get to the synagogue to work, we will be reaching out to you to find out what you need. Please do not call the synagogue – our telephone system was knocked out. We will also need volunteers to help in the community. We will be working closely with other community institutions such as Federation, JFS, and the ERJCC, among others.

Reopening the Beth Yeshurun Day School is a high priority. Synagogue and school leadership are working together to get this done. BYDS leadership will take the lead in communicating with parents.

We will be displaced for this Shabbat. Congregation Brith Shalom has generously and graciously opened their doors and invited us to have Friday night and Saturday morning services for the Sanctuary community. The Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Rosenberg, daughter of Jeff and Laurie Rosenberg, will take place at Brith Shalom. Brith Shalom clergy and Beth Yeshurun clergy, and of course Rachel, will share the davening. Services Friday night begin at 6:15 pm, and Saturday morning at 9:30 am.

The Chapel community will also meet at Brith Shalom in their chapel on Saturday morning at 9:00 am and at 7:15 pm for mincha/maariv. Brith Shalom is also inviting us to use their Chapel for weekday services, morning and evening, as long as is needed. Service times will follow our normal Beth Yeshurun schedule, 8:00 am on Sunday, 7:00 am Monday through Friday, and 6:30 pm week nights.

The Museum Minyan will meet at Rabbi Steve Morgen’s and Cantor Diane Dorf’s home Saturday morning at 9:15 am.

It is not likely that we will be able to have services for the High Holy Days at Beth Yeshurun. We have a number of options we are investigating. This is quite an unusual year for us, but we can say with certainty, WE WILL HAVE HIGH HOLY DAYS SERVICES FOR OUR CONGREGANTS!

Even though the rains and the flooding have subsided a lot in our area, there are still pockets of flooding. We want everyone to remain safe and not take risks.

If you need one of our rabbis, they are all available to you. If you need someone to talk to, if you need strength to get through the aftermath of this terrible storm, please do not hesitate to call any of our rabbis: Rabbi David Rosen ([281-610-2505](tel:281-610-2505)), Rabbi Brian Strauss ([713-449-9921](tel:713-449-9921)), Rabbi Steven Morgen ([713-502-9012](tel:713-502-9012)) and Rabbi Sarah Fort ([571-216-4195](tel:571-216-4195)).

We continue to encourage you to make donations through the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston. You can do this on their website, [www.houstonjewish.org](http://www.houstonjewish.org). The Federation is also asking people if they can donate supplies that are also urgently needed.

If you need assistance, contact the Jewish Family Service Crisis Hotline at [713-364-5021](tel:713-364-5021).

Thank you for your help. G-d bless you all.