

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

News | Activities | Events

Inside this Issue

From the Bimah: Our
Rabbi's Message

The President's Message

TBS Sunday School
Announcements and
Schedule

Sisterhood Corner and
Brotherhood

Life Cycle Events

Temple Beth Shalom
Event Calendar

Harriet Sederholm
Scholarship Foundation

Special Events and
Announcements

Temple Board of Directors

Temple Member
Business Directory

Temple Beth Shalom
P.O. Box 9142
Hickory, North Carolina 28603
www.hickoryjewishcenter.com



From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

Rabbi Dennis Jones

Are We Waiting For "The Messiah"?

This is a very complex topic. But since I have been your rabbi for eight years now, I feel ready to address some of the more complex questions of our Jewish faith. Let me begin this discussion with a favorite Passover story that I have heard told by many progressive rabbis over the years. There was a child present at a Passover Seder who inquired of the rabbi what was the symbolism of the cup for Elijah. The rabbi explained to the child that according to our tradition, Elijah was to be the forerunner of the messiah, and when the messiah comes that will be a time of peace and prosperity—sickness and hunger will be eliminated, and all the nations will live in friendship and fellowship with one another. Upon hearing this, the child asked simply, **"Why would we need to wait for the messiah to do that?!"**

The religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, as practiced in our Western world, in my opinion, have become preoccupied with the doctrine of "the messiah." My own views on this topic have evolved greatly over the years and **are still evolving**. I have no hard and fast eschatological system that I adhere to, only the fundamental belief that there is a Supreme Creative Mind that willed this creation into existence and, probably for reasons known only to that Creator, also willed human beings

into existence to be **partners in the completion of that ongoing Creative Process**. In my own experience, to know that Creative Force is to have a sense of gratitude, respect, praise, and desire to respond to that Force. The appropriate response, in my opinion, is to be a full partner in the **completion of creation through acts of lovingkindness to all creatures, social justice, and gestures of peace**. I do believe that the Hebrew Prophets have given us a glimpse of the perfected state that our world, and eventually our entire cosmos, can achieve. Based on my understanding of what the Creative Force has revealed about that One's self, at least in the Hebrew Bible, the sacred writings with which I am most familiar, that Creative/Redemptive Process is being carried out through a series of **covenants made with humankind**.

Now, *again* in my opinion, the idea of a messiah has been blown far out of biblical proportion by many. The entire idea of messiah comes from the Hebrew word, משיח—mashiach, which means simply, “anointed one.” The word itself comes from the Hebrew verb, מָשַׁח—mashach, which means, “to smear with oil.” The first messiahs in the Hebrew Bible were Aaron and his sons. We read in Exodus 29:7, “Then you shall take the anointing oil, and pour it on his [Aaron's] head and anoint him.” And speaking of Aaron's sons, in Exodus 28:41, “...and you shall anoint them and ordain them and consecrate them, that they may serve me as priests.” If we are going to interpret the term messiahs as referring to anointed ones, as I believe would be biblically appropriate, then even in biblical times we have examples of hundreds of messiahs, since the practice of anointing was used for priests, later for kings, and also for prophets. See for example 1st Kings 19:16, where Elijah was instructed, “Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint king over Israel; and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint as **prophet in your place**.” Even the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, are called messiahs in the Hebrew Bible. See, for example, Psalm 105:13-15, “When they went from one nation to another, from one kingdom to another people, God permitted no one to do them wrong; yes, God rebuked kings for their sakes, saying, “Do not touch my **anointed ones**, and to do my prophets no harm.”

If we were going to look for a figure to assist humankind in ushering in the golden age which is often referred to as the “messianic age,” I would hone in on two passages in the Torah that I feel are more ancient than some of the later passages often applied to a messiah. The first passage is found in Exodus 23:20-23, “Behold, I am going to send a messenger/angel (Hebrew: מַלְאָךְ) to guard you along the way, and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. Be on your guard before him and obey his voice. Do not be rebellious toward him for he will not pardon your transgression, since my name is in him. But if you truly obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. For my messenger/angel will go before you and bring you in to the land of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will completely destroy them.” Now most scholars and interpreters take this passage as a reference to Joshua, but the writer of Deuteronomy picks up on it and gives it a more expansive meaning in

18:15-19 of that book, “Adonai your God will raise up for you a prophet like me [Moses] from among you, from among your countrymen, you shall listen to him. ... I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you [Moses], and I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And it shall come about that whoever will not listen to my words which he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.” These passages make me wonder whether, rather than looking for a **messiah**, we should instead be looking for **the return of prophecy to humankind**. The sages of the Talmudic period talked about the removal of prophecy and its eventual return. A full discussion that is beyond the scope of my answer here, but rather than a **messiah**, an anointed prophet, group of prophets, or better yet **all humankind communicating with the Divine Mind** would be a much better deal. I think this might be what the prophet Joel envisioned when he said, “And it will come about after this that I [God] will pour out my spirit on all flesh; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. And even on the male and female servants I will pour out my spirit in those days” (2:28-29).

Now, **the idea of an anointed king came much later in the Hebrew Bible**. And one should remember that Adonai was not pleased with the people’s request. When the people asked the prophet Samuel to appoint a king over them so that they could be “like the nations,” Adonai told Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, **but they have rejected me from being king over them**” (I Samuel 8:7). That passage continues with a vivid description of the oppressive rule of kings, concluding with the chilling warning, “Then you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, **but Adonai will not answer you in that day**” (I Samuel 8:11-18). So, while there are references to a descendant of David in many prophetic passages, 10 to be exact, it is difficult for me to believe that the True Sovereign of Israel who felt rejected by the people at the appointment of an earthly king, would then turn around and make a descendant of an earthly king a **central figure in the redemptive plan for the entire cosmos**.

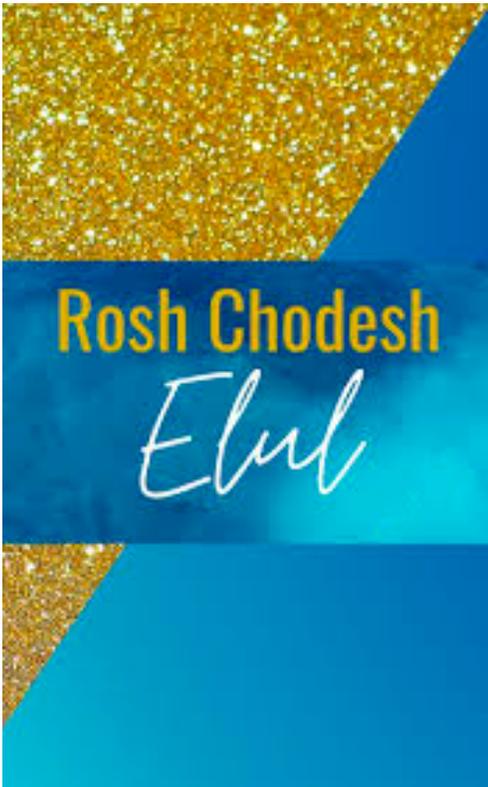
As said, there are 10 references in the Prophets to a descendant of David being involved in the ultimate golden age. There are another 4 references, three in Ezekiel and one in Hosea, that state that **David himself** will reign over a restored kingdom of Israel and Judah. But there are dozens of passages in the Prophets that speak of a **return of Adonai’s own Presence to the earth**. The clearest passage is in the book of Zechariah. We chant it every service as part of the *Aleinu* prayer. The prophecy is spoken in the context of many nations gathering for battle against Jerusalem. It states, “Then Adonai will go forth against those nations, as [God] fights in the day of battle. And in that day [God’s] feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the East.... Thus Adonai my God will come, and all the holy ones with you.... And Adonai shall be King over all the earth; in that day it shall be—Adonai will be one and [God’s] name one” (14:3-9). There are countless more verses, though, in Isaiah, Ezekiel, Zechariah, and Hosea which speak of the **presence/appearance of Adonai with no references to any human agent**.

Also pertinent to the discussion of “end time” events are the **servant passages** from the book of Isaiah. Scholars and interpreters believe that these refer predominantly to the **whole nation of Israel**. And that idea is definitely conveyed by the prophet himself. For example in chapter 41, “But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, descendent of Abraham my friend, you whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called from its remotest parts, and said to you, ‘You are my servant, I have chosen you and not rejected you’” (41:8-9). But, a few chapters later there is a twist and wording that could be interpreted to point to an **individual rather than to the nation**. “And now says Adonai, who formed me from the womb to be God’s servant, to bring Jacob back to God, in order that Israel might be gathered to God (for I am honored in the sight of Adonai, and my God is my strength). God says, ‘It is too small a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations so that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth’” (49:5-6). It must be pointed out here that **absolutely none of the servant passages in the book of Isaiah contain a reference to either a messiah or to a descendant of David**.

So, on this very complex subject of “the messiah,” my views have evolved and are still evolving just as the views of Judaism itself have evolved over the years and are still evolving. As the Torah says, “The secret things belong to Adonai our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, **that we may observe all the words of this Torah**” (Deut. 29:29). Of one thing I am very certain, I want to be a part of **Adonai’s Creative Plan**. I want to be a part of the **perfection of this cosmos—tikkun olam**. Our tradition tells us, as “Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai taught: ‘If you have a sapling in your hand, and someone says to you the Messiah has come, stay and finish planting, and then go to greet the Messiah’” (*Avot d’Rabbi Natan* 31b). I will plant that sapling, and drive an electric car, and feed the hungry, and visit the sick, and free the oppressed, and fight for social justice, and **do whatever I can to bring perfection/wholeness to Adonai’s creation**. If a messiah or messiahs, at some point, figure into that effort, so be it. And if not, so be it. **It does not really change what I practice and preach**.

President's Message

Susan Goldstein, President



Here we are again just days away from *Rosh Chodesh Elul*. Last year about this time we were newbies in the world of virtual worship services. We've come a long way, thanks to the skills of Mary Lee and Dr. Aaron Tosky, Kathy and Rabbi Dennis Jones, and Dr. James Norwood. For the last few months we've been holding hybrid services, and they've worked very well. While we'd love to have everyone in the sanctuary during the High Holy Days, we'll still be conducting services with limited in-person seating and via Zoom.

As I write this, we're seeing a resurgence of COVID cases stemming from the Delta variant. As a result, we will continue to be masked and require reservations for in-person worship. Please note that we have not required vaccinations for in-person attendance, nor do we have plans to do so at this time. The compromise is that everyone must be masked. In addition, we will continue to space families six feet apart. Effective with our services on Friday evening, August 6, we will increase the number of attendees to 40. Reservations will be accepted until that number is reached. Please contact susanejgoldstein@gmail.com to request reservations.

Much as we all wish it were otherwise, we will not serve food or drink for the foreseeable future. I know. In the past the rule was "no eatin', no meetin'" but we'll just have to forge on for now!

L'Shalom,

Susan

TBS Sisterhood

Sheri Stock, Sisterhood President



Sheri's in the middle next to Haven at her adoption ceremony.

Hello Temple Beth Shalom! My name is Sheri Stock and I'm going to be taking over sisterhood from Lin Gentry. I'm very excited about this! I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. I've been coming to synagogue for about 3 & 1/2 years now. I converted to Judaism in September 2020. I've been married to St. John for more than 30 years now. We are the parents to four amazing humans! Shani, Brady, and Corey are our biological children and they are all adults. In October, 2018, we started fostering Haven. We formally adopted her in February 2020. Haven is in the process of conversion, she attends Hebrew High school, and she is learning Hebrew. My husband and I are also parents to a standard schnauzer, a French bulldog, and three very spoiled cats.

I love everything Disney, exploring historical and cultural sites, playing board and card games, studying Hebrew, doing Pilates, and baking challah! Haven and I have been baking and delivering challah to temple members during the pandemic, and will be baking round challah for Rosh Hashana. Please contact me if you would like us to bring some to you. The varieties we will have available are: Traditional, Gluten free, and Vegan. Apples and honey can also be incorporated into any challah. I look forward to spending time with and getting to know everyone in sisterhood!

From Past Sisterhood President, Lin Gentry

I'd like to thank Sheri Stock for agreeing to be the new president of the Sisterhood. I look forward to the ideas she has for the sisterhood and for temple. Welcome Sheri!

Are you ready to have fun? We're going to have another Temple Trivia night on Saturday, August 14th at 7pm on zoom. Everyone is invited. Just bring pen and paper, your own snacks and the beverages of your choice—we'll have 2 rounds of 20 questions. Good luck!



TBS Sunday School Program

Kathy Jones, Sunday School Principal

Students are off for the summer, but classes are scheduled to resume on Sunday, August 29th at 10:00 AM. Parents and students who participated last year will receive instructions by email as that time approaches. TBS member Parents or Grandparents,

wishing to enroll new students, should contact Kathy Jones, School Principal, at krsjones2002@Yahoo.com.

Harriet Sederholm Scholarship Fund



The Harriet Sederholm Scholarship Fund was established by a long-standing Temple member, Burt Sederholm, to honor his wife Harriet, who died shortly after her retirement after 25 years with the Catawba County Department of Social Services. Mr. Sederholm's efforts provided the initial funding from generous family members and friends and it has been

added to over the years. The scholarship is available to students. Temple members are looked upon favorably, but one does not need to be a temple member nor Jewish to apply. The scholarship fund dividends are used to provide scholarship awards. Candidates may submit an essay to any one of the committee members. The essay will explain who the candidate is, what they are doing currently, what their plans are for the future, how the scholarship funds will be used and, if applicable, what the connection may be to Jewish life.

Interested students should submit their essay by April 30th. The scholarship season runs from May 1-April 30. All applicants will be notified in writing if their application has been approved or declined by May 15th. Awards should be mailed to recipients by May 31st.

The essay should be emailed to any of the committee members: Lin Gentry, Karen Ferguson, or Sandy Guttler. Naturally, the committee encourages everyone to make a tax-deductible donation to the Scholarship Fund at any time.



Temple Board

Our next board meeting will be Wednesday, August 11th. Board meetings are open to all temple members. Contact Susan Goldstein if you wish to join the meeting.

TBS Board members are:

Officers:

- Susan Goldstein, President
- Barbara Laufer, Past President
- Tiffany Hull, Vice President
- Susan Rieder, Treasurer
- Lin Gentry, Secretary

Members at Large:

- Liz Correll
- Mary Lee Tosky
- Karen Ferguson
- Derek Cooperberg
- Sheri Stock

Donations



TBS Gives through Donations

Our donation for the month of August was sent to the Marine Corp League

Do you have a favorite charity you would like us to donate to? Let us know



Please consider these funds for your next donation:

- Building and Grounds
- Security
- Sunday School
- Community Relations and Social Action



When we all get back to temple in person again, please consider pairing with a board member(s) to host a weekend at Temple Beth Shalom. When members contribute to the life of our synagogue in this way, we all feel a part of our Jewish community and an active participant in assuring its well-being.

TBS Community Mitzvah Projects

The Community Relations and Social Action Committee has continued to be active over the summer. We sent \$500 to the Shul of Bal Harbor in Surfside, FL to help the victims of the Surfside Condominium collapse. Ninety-eight people were killed in the collapse and many survivors lost everything and were left homeless. Over 1/3 of the local population is Jewish and 13 of the deceased were members of the Shul of Bal Harbor. Please keep the survivors and families of the deceased in your prayers.

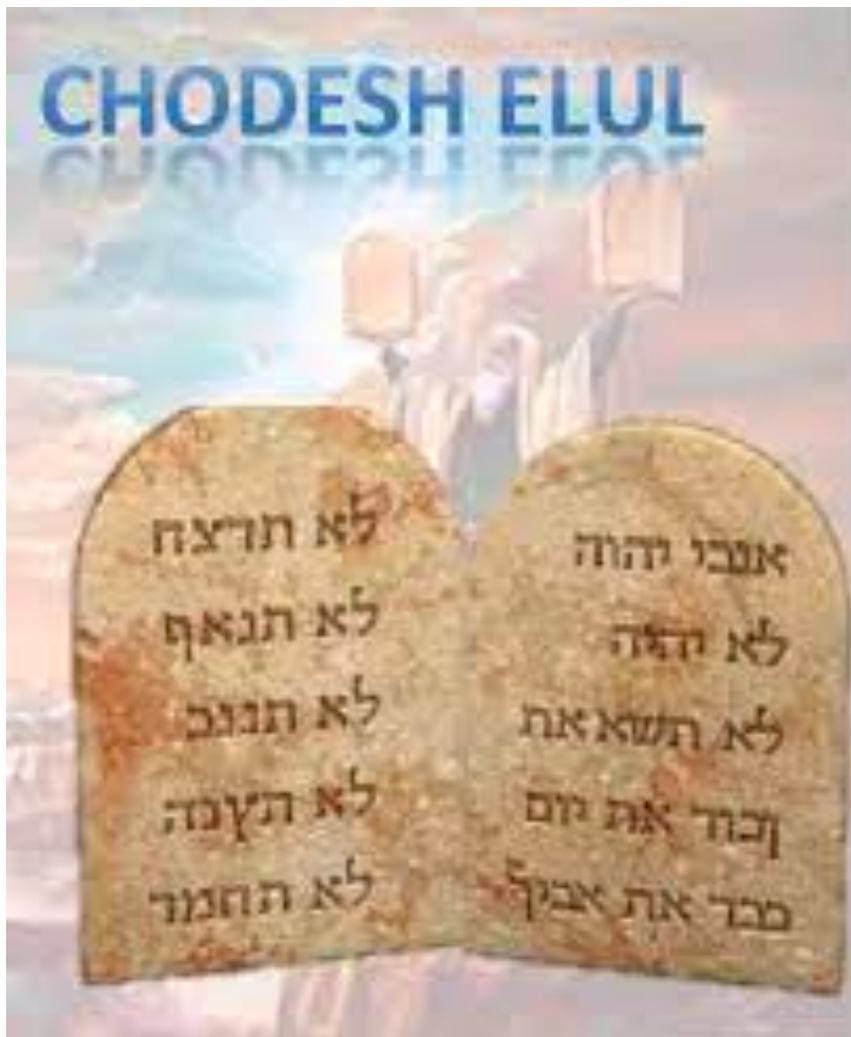
CRSAC also helped with rehousing a family of 4 (including 2 children) this month. We were able to give the family much needed household goods that TBS members had donated. Thank you again to all who have generously donated supplies and furniture for us to use to help local families!

Currently, CRSAC is collecting school supplies for low-income students in Alexander County. If you have any supplies or funds that you would like to donate to help with this project (or any other), please email Chairperson, Kathy Jones at: krsjones2002@yahoo.com

TBS Message Board

Yom huledet sameach! - to all of our members who were born in August!

If you wish to post a message to acknowledge a special event or achievement, condolence, or send a get well message, give or send your message and a \$5 donation to Temple Beth Shalom Message Board, PO Box 9142, Hickory, NC 28603. A greeting card will be sent acknowledging your donation and your message will appear here in the next issue of the TBS Bulletin.



TBS Member Business Directory

Let us know if you would like to list your business here in the Bulletin. It is a free benefit of TBS membership

Dr. Laura Faruque
A Woman's View
915 Tate Blvd SE
Suite 170
Hickory, NC 28602
828-345-0800

Dr. Mark Faruque
Bethlehem Family Practice
174 Bolick Lane Suite 202
Taylorsville, NC 28681
828-495-8226

Ghiora Mehler
The Southern Chickpea
Falafel Truck
thesouthernchickpea.com
828-999-0496



Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle August Events

Birthdays

Laura Faruque 8/1
Garrett Richards 8/1
Rachel Peltzer 8/1
Meredith Gross 8/3
Emerson Weatherly 8/5
Stephanie Cangemi 8/10
Sage Bonfield 8/12
Michael Jones 8/12
Aaron Tosky 8/22
Adam Bonfield 8/23
Pierce Reed 8/24
Marion DuBow 8/27

Anniversaries

Ron and Marion DuBow 8/6

Yahrzeit

Ron Taub 8/1
Ralph Kaufman 8/5
Selma Freudmann Kastan 8/13
Peter Cangemi 8/22
Harriet Sederholm 8/25
Sheldon Oxenberg 8/25
Roberta Rose 8/17
Morton Rose 8/10
Harold Goldstein 23 Av (8/1)

Local and Regional Events

Member Business Directory

Scott and Julie Owens
Taste Full Beans Coffeehouse
29 2nd St NW
Hickory, NC 28601
828-325-0108
www.tastefullbeans.com

Dr David Peltzer
Newton Family Physicians
767 West First Street
Newton, NC 28658
828 465-3928
www.newtonfamilyphysicians.com



The Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies invites the academic public to its first **research colloquium** of Fall 2021. The ZOOM-based event features **Dr. Noah Shenker (Monash University)** live from Australia. It will take place on **Thurs., August 26, from 7:30 - 9:00 pm EST** Like all Center events, these online programs are free of charge and open to the public. For more information, please contact the Center at 828.262.2311



**SHALOM
HARMON
INSTITUTE**

Follow this link for information about upcoming online events at SHI: <https://www.hartman.org.il/programs/>



Temple Beth Shalom has an active membership in the Catawba Valley Interfaith Council, where Rabbi Dennis serves as president. You can find out more about this organization and its activities at: <https://www.facebook.com/CVICNC/>.

Want to contribute to the TBS Bulletin? Send entries to Karen Ferguson at karen.sederholm@gmail.com. All entries are reviewed by the TBS Board before publication.

Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School 2021-22

For event updates, email: info@hickoryjewishcenter.com

DATE		EVENT	BULLETIN DEADLINE
August	6	Friday Night Service 7:00 PM	July 31
	21	Saturday Morning Service 10:00 AM	
	29	Sunday School Kickoff Meeting 10:00 AM	
September	6	Erev Rosh Hashana 7:00 PM (Monday)	August 28
	7	Rosh Hashana 10:00 AM (Tuesday)	
	15	Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre 7:00 PM (Wednesday)	
	16	Yom Kippur 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM Neilah/Breakfast (Thursday)	
	19	Sunday School/Build & Decorate Sukkah/Short Service/Party 10:00 AM	
	28	Simchat Torah Service 7:00 PM (Tuesday)	
October	9	Saturday Morning Service 10:00 AM	October 2
	10	Sunday School 10:00 AM	
	22	Friday Night Service 7:00 PM	
	24	Sunday School 10:00 AM	
November	6	Saturday Morning Service 10:00 AM	October 30
	14	Sunday School 10:00 AM	
	19	Friday Night Service 7:00 PM	
	21	Sunday School 10:00 AM	
	25	Thanksgiving Community Service (10:00 AM at Corinth UCC)	
December	28	Evening Service/First Night of Hanukah 7:00 PM	December 4
	11	Saturday Morning Service 10:00 AM	
	12	Sunday School 10:00 AM	
	17	Friday Night Service 7:00 PM	
	19	Sunday School 10:00 AM	
January	8	Saturday Morning Service 10:00 AM	January 1
	9	Sunday School 10:00 AM	
	21	Friday Night Service 7:00 PM	
February	23	Sunday School 10:00 AM	February 5
	12	Saturday Morning Service 10:00 AM	
	13	Sunday School 10:00 AM	
	25	Friday Night Service 7:00 PM	
March	27	Sunday School 10:00 AM	March 5
	12	Saturday Morning Service 10:00 AM	
	13	Sunday School 10:00 AM	
April	9	Saturday Morning Service 10:00 AM	April 2
	10	Sunday School 10:00 AM	
	16	Passover Community Seder 6:00 PM (Saturday)	
	22	Friday Night Service 7:00 PM	
	24	Sunday School 10:00 AM	
May	14	Saturday Morning Service 10:00 AM	May 7
	15	Sunday School 10:00 AM	
	22	TBS Annual Membership Meeting 10:00 AM (Sunday)	
	27	Friday Night Service 7:00 PM	
	29	Sunday School 10:00 AM	
June	5	Shavuot Morning Service 10:00 AM (Sunday)	June 4
	11	Saturday Morning Service 10:00 AM	
	12	Sunday School Final Session/Party 10:00 AM	
	24	Friday Night Service 7:00 PM	
July	9	Saturday Morning Service 10:00 AM	N/A
	22	Friday Night Service 7:00 PM	