



Carnegie Shul Chatter

September 9, 2020



Light candles 7:16pm Shabbat service 9:20am

Still Time to Reserve Your Place! High Holidays at the Carnegie Shul

If you have not yet made your reservation to attend High Holiday services at the Carnegie Shul, it is still not too late to do so. Currently, we have 21 people who have signed up to attend in person.

If you're able to join us — we will have safety protocols in place (masks required and seating arranged for social distancing), please send an email to Mike Roteman at mrmike7777@yahoo.com. Indicate how many will be in your party (household members will be seated together, distanced from other attendees).

We Need Your Support

If there is one thing I hate to do, it is to ask for money.

But our Shul does need money to operate, and our incredibly low dues only cover a fraction of the costs.

It costs us money to bring in our wonderful Cantor for the Holidays. It costs us money for extra security protection for the Holidays. We have utility bills to pay and other expenses throughout the year. And this year we are spending nearly \$17,000 for a new air conditioning and heating system that we desperately need.

Your contribution to the Carnegie Shul, your Tzedakah, will be put to great use and will be truly appreciated.

Please send your check to Congregation Ahavath Achim at 500 Chestnut St., Carnegie, PA 15106.

If you cannot attend in person, we will be streaming our services. Send an email to Mike, in order to receive the streaming link once it is finalized.

And **if you need a High Holiday prayer book and Yizkor book**, email Mike and he will meet you at the Shul next week to lend you both.

Either in person or on line, we'd love to have you pray with us.

I Can't Imagine

In 1971 John Lennon had a hit recording of the song *Imagine* that he wrote along with Yoko Ono. In 2004, Rolling Stone magazine selected *Imagine* as the third greatest song of all time.

The song begins with the lyrics, "Imagine there's no heaven, It's easy if you try, No Hell below us, Above us only sky." Later, the lyrics say, "Imagine there's no countries, It isn't hard to do, Nothing to kill or die for, And no religion too."

Well, John and Yoko, I can imagine that, but I'd rather not.

I'm glad there is a heaven. I'm glad there is religion.

As we approach the beginning of the Jewish New Year and prepare to celebrate God's incredible creation of the universe, our planet Earth, and mankind, I am very, very thankful for Heaven and the God who created all that we know. I am thankful that Abraham renounced false gods and recognized the one true God who established a covenant with Abraham and gave us Torah, the basis of our wonderful Jewish religion.

Is the world perfect? Of course not. But that is certainly not God's fault. I wish John and Yoko would have understood that better. Then they might not have written *Imagine*. And I would have no problem with some other song being the third greatest song of all time.

We all make mistakes. Each and every one of us. We do not obey God's laws as much as we should, but God knows we are only human and that humans are not perfect. And so God forgives. On Yom Kippur, God gives us the opportunity to atone for all of our sins, and Divine forgiveness awaits us.

Teshuvah, Tefilah and Tzedakah — Repentance, Prayer and Charity, can help us gain the forgiveness we seek.

The God in Heaven, the God of our religion, gives you the opportunity to seek His forgiveness. The High Holidays are rapidly approaching. Give Repentance, Prayer and Charity a try.

