

Congregation Anshe Emeth



E-Newsletter November 2025

Services, Led by our *Shaliach Tzibur*, Jese Shell

Saturday, November 1 at 10:00

- Come rejoice at a belated Simchat Torah Celebration!
- Book discussion will feature the Sukkot and Simchat Torah Chapters
- Oneg to follow

Friday, November 7 at 7:30—Bonus Service!

- Jese will lead an abbreviated Kabbalat Shabbat Service for the members of his Judaism class at Wilmington College. Come join in and support Jese!

JOIN IN PERSON OR ZOOM

To Join Zoom Service:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7643723318?pwd=STJIR1drNXFoL29XRGw0L1AzMThxQT09>

Or go to your Zoom App and put in this information:

Meeting ID: 764 372 3318 Passcode: 0092

Or simply dial by your location:

646 876 9923 US (New York)

When prompted, put in for the Meeting ID: 764 372 3318 and push #

Passcode: 0092 and push #

A New Beginning in Joy and Creation

As we gather to celebrate our belated Anshe Emeth *Simchat Torah* and read *Parashat Beresheit*, we are reminded of the cyclical beauty of our Torah and our lives. Just as the seasons turn and the Jewish year renews, so too does our sacred text — with joy, with song, and with purpose.

On *Simchat Torah*, we complete the final verses of *Devarim* (Deuteronomy) and, without pause, begin again with *Beresheit* (Genesis). This seamless transition is more than a ritual; it's a profound symbol of our eternal relationship with the Torah. We dance with the scrolls not just because we finish reading them — but because we *never* finish. The Torah is our living document, always speaking, always renewing.

In *Parashat Beresheit*, we read the words:

"בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ"

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1)

These first words remind us of the sanctity of beginnings — that every moment is an opportunity to create, to renew, and to bring light into darkness. Just as God brings order to chaos in the days of creation, we are tasked with bringing kindness, justice, and peace into our world, every single day.

Both *Simchat Torah* and *Beresheit* highlight the value of *continuity* and *renewal*. They teach us that joy and purpose go hand in hand. We celebrate the past, but our eyes are always on the future — on what we can build, how we can grow, and how we can repair.

As some of you know, *Simchat Torah* is my favorite holy day. I am particularly moved by the music of these days — the songs of rejoicing as we circle the sanctuary with the Torah, and the melodies of the creation narrative that lift the soul. These sounds connect us not only to each other, but to generations before us who found meaning in the same sacred words.

May this season of new beginnings inspire us to create goodness in our homes, our synagogue, and our world. And may we never stop dancing with our Torah — in body, in heart, and in spirit.

Shabbat Shalom and a Belated Chag Sameach,

Jese Shell

Yahrtzeits for November . . . Of Blessed Memory

Robyn Friedman
Dorothy Kastner
Edna Kastner Feingold
Arthur Litchfield
Millie Simon

Mishe Berach . . . Prayers for Healing

Mitzi Seaman
Neal Schmidt
Joey Ferrell
David Ferrell
Cory Lemmon
Mike Freed

Mazel Tov!

To Eileen and Steve Litchfield on the Bat Mitzvah of their Granddaughter Hannah,
daughter of Dan!

Thank you for your support . . .

- Martin Strauss
- Judie & David Thomson in memory of Clara Barr, Herman Barr, Sara Kastner, Joseph Kastner, Beatrice Thomson and Eileen Yearsley.
- Eric & Holly Stephenson
- Karen & Luke Bowman



Thank you to Jeff and Susan Bargemann, Eileen and Steve Litchfield, Renni Livingston, and Steve Shuchat for the High Holiday flowers. They were beautiful!

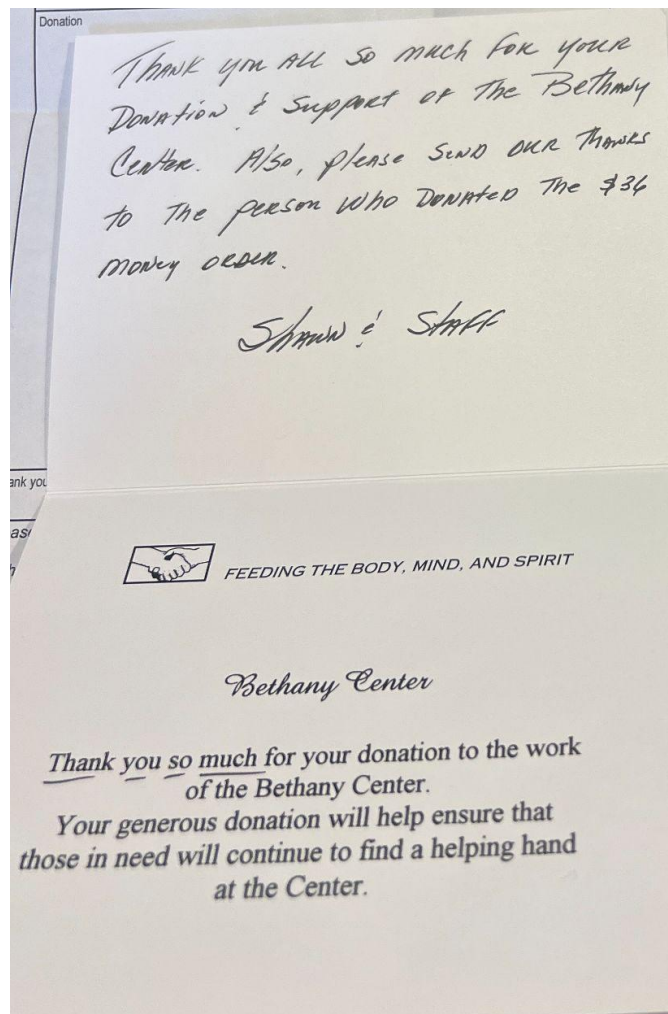


Thank you to Holly Stephenson for donating Hygiene Kits!



Thank you to all who donated to the High Holiday Food Drive!

From the Bethany Center:



And thank you to Eileen Litchfield for countless years of newsletters! As I take over the newsletter, feel free to provide some feedback if I miss something or if there is anything you'd like to see included! – Susan

Sukkot in the Country

Thanks to all who came to the Sukkot Party at the Bargemann's in Darke County! We had a crowd of 29 people and 3 cows for a wonderful evening, including dinner in the sukkah and a bonfire. Thank you to Judy for the Sukkot teaching, and to Luke and Janessa Bowman for the world's most beautiful Sukkah!



