Rosh Chodesh FAQ

***What is Rosh Chodesh?***Literally “head of the month.” It is a minor holiday that marks the beginning of every month in the Jewish calendar. Rosh Chodesh is considered a special holiday for women, and in modern times, women have formed Rosh Chodesh groups to celebrate the new moon, explore Judaism from a female perspective, and create meaningful connections.

***What will we do at the Temple Emanuel Rosh Gatherings?***
We will light candles and say an opening blessing to welcome the new month and all the women gathered together. We will then explore a theme (for the October 7 gathering it is “How Can We Be Our Best Selves in the New Year?”) by reading some short relevant passages (you don’t have to read aloud if you don’t want to), and having discussions in small groups. We will also do an easy and fun project.

***Do I have to be Jewish to attend?***
No. Rosh Chodesh gatherings are open to all women of Temple Emanuel. ***Do I have to be a mom or a certain age?***
No. This is not a moms’ group, and Temple Emanuel women of all ages are welcome.

***Do I have to have knowledge of specific Jewish teachings?***No. We will share our knowledge, experience, and wisdom (Jewish and otherwise) as a group, and no one will ever be put on the spot. We will gather to learn from, support, and inspire each other.

***Will there be food?***
Some simple snacks and nonalcoholic drinks. Please let us know when you RSVP if you have special dietary needs.

***How is this different from Kulanu Groups at Temple?***
Kulanu Groups is another wonderful way to connect with other members of Temple Emanuel. Kulanu Groups are for men and women and some will include whole families and will be formed on similar interests and life stages. Rosh Chodesh gatherings are for women (and only women) at Temple Emanuel and will be stand-alone events.

***Are there other scheduled dates for Rosh Chodesh?***Yes indeed! Mark your calendar for Sunday, November 11 (7:00-9:00 p.m.) and Sunday, December 16 (7:00-9:00 p.m.)

***Can I host or facilitate a future Rosh Chodesh gathering?***
Yes, definitely! However, there is no obligation to do so. For those who are interested, there are two roles for each gathering: (1) Host – your home will be the site of the gathering, or (2) Facilitator – you can pick a theme that interests you, create the agenda, and then lead the gathering. Ideally, this will be two different people so that it’s more manageable for each person.

***More questions?***
Please contact Lisa Dvorin at 412-780-8319 or lisadvorin@comcast.net.

**Ready to RSVP for the October 7 (7:00-9:00 p.m.) Rosh Chodesh gathering?**
Great! Please send your RSVP to templeemanuel@templemanuelpgh.org or call 412-279-7600. The gathering will be at Lisa Dvorin’s home – 1412 Langport Drive, 15241).