

Case Statement

For the Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation–Emek Shalom Endowment/Legacy Campaign

From our meager beginnings in 1960, as twelve Jewish families coming together in a Simsbury home, the Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation–Emek Shalom has grown to become a spiritual, social, and cultural center for hundreds of families throughout the area. Although we have continued to grow, we remain a close-knit “family” embracing each new member.

We describe our unique style of religious observance at the Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation–Emek Shalom as “warm” Reform Judaism. Our “minhag” or ritual is one which tries to evoke the deep sense of spirituality in those who worship with us. Our service is rooted in Reform Judaism and at the same time is combined with numerous elements of our rich and eclectic Jewish heritage to give us a unique blend and range of observance where any Jew might feel comfortable to pray.

Our temple has been serving the needs of the community for 47 years and has developed a vital presence in the Farmington Valley and beyond.

Our officers and board of directors are dedicated to seeing our family continue to flourish. Our strength comes from support and commitment and participation of people like you.

At the Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation–Emek Shalom, we believe the following:

- Our synagogue is an integral part of family—a broad extension of family living.
- Our synagogue means people and families with a common concern for human values. We will strive to develop a “caring community,” to reach out to all members of the congregation—traditional Jewish families, Jews by choice, non-Jewish spouses, the “seniors,” single parents, unmarried adults, and young adults in college. And we will provide support services to our members in their times of crisis.
- Our synagogue is the center of Jewish community life-supplementing our Jewish family life with traditional Jewish values of inspiration and education for both adults and children. We will provide cultural and social settings for the cohesion of the members of the congregation—young and old—into the greater Jewish community.
- Our synagogue is unique in its belief that our Liberal-Reform tradition retains the warmth and dignity of familiar music, customs and ceremony. We will provide religious services and spiritual sustenance to all Jews, consistent with the tenets and practices of modern Reform Judaism.

- Our synagogue affords us the opportunity for sharing in the dynamics of Judaism, through involvement, for here we know that involvement works, caring pays off, people are listened to and heard, their opinions are valued and new ideas are tried.
- Our synagogue gives meaning to our faith, and will give meaning to its members in accordance with the laws of social justice inherent in Judaism, that “no man is an island,” In biblical spirit, too, we will reach out to the unaffiliated in the Greater Hartford community.
- Our synagogue is small enough to know you and hear you, large enough to serve you and involve you; it is “heimisch.”
- We seek to be inclusive through our Outreach program.

Through your generous gift or bequest to the Eternal Light Campaign, you ensure the future of FVJC in the Farmington Valley, an integral and vital part to the Jewish heritage in the Farmington Valley. [Please click here to learn more.](#)

Creating an endowment and leaving a bequest or planned gift to FVJC ensures that our congregation will continue to:

- Benefit our children and the entire Jewish community through instilling Jewish values and ideals for many generations to come.
- Educate Jewish children, who will help to carry out Jewish principles and beliefs throughout their lifetime.
- Enhance our religious schools by improving the classroom facilities, materials, and allow for more enriched programs.
- Attract new Jewish families in the Farmington Valley.
- Offset specific building operations and enhancements from annual dues (i.e. create an honorary chair for the Rabbi and Cantor).
- Provide for a center of Jewish learning where parents, grandparents, children, and the general community can expand their Jewish knowledge.